

Friday April 19 1996

Abu Dhabi D 8.50	Hong Kong HK\$ 25	Qatar Q 1.00
Albania L 2.20	Hungary F 2.20	Romania R 1.70
Australia A\$ 2.20	India IN 1.50	Saudi Arabia R 1.00
Bahrain B 0.25	Israel IS 1.50	Singapore S 2.20
Belgium B 1.50	Italy I 1.50	South Korea S 2.20
Bulgaria L 1.70	Japan J 1.50	Spain P 2.20
Canada C 1.50	Lebanon L 1.50	Sweden S 2.20
Czech Republic KC4	Malaysia M 1.50	Switzerland SF 3
Denmark DK 15	Mexico M 1.50	Thailand B 80
Dubai D 8.50	Morocco M 1.50	Taiwan T 1.50
Egypt E 6.50	Netherlands G 4.00	Turkey T 1.50
France F 1.50	Norway N 15	Ukraine U 2.00
Germany DM 3.50		USA US 1.75
Greece D 2.00		Zimbabwe Z\$ 2.00

# The Guardian

INTERNATIONAL

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR 48,531

Printed in London, Manchester, Frankfurt and Roubaix

The latest music and books

Ian McKellen on bringing the Bard to Hollywood

The birth of the popular press

## Review

## A century of sensation

Linton Kwesi Johnson

Matthew Engel page 4

### Israelis kill 97 and injure 100 with rain of shells on UN refugee centre in Lebanon

# "An unfortunate mistake"

David Hirst in Beirut and Majid Abu Jajja in south Lebanon

**H**IS voice choking, a radio operator at the Fijian-managed United Nations base at Qana cried: "We're under fire. Shells are landing on headquarters. People are dying here."

At least five 155mm howitzers struck the base where 500 refugees from southern Lebanon had fled from the week-long Israeli onslaught. The result was carnage. Nearly 100 people were killed and at least another 100 wounded.

"I saw the massacre of the Sarajevo market," said a UN officer. "But I can tell you that it was nothing compared to this."

Most of the inhabitants of Qana, the village where Christ is said to have performed his first miracle of turning water into wine, had fled north after Israeli warnings, early in the campaign, that they should leave or face the consequences. But many of those who stayed behind had taken refuge in the UN base. So had villagers from nearby Siddiqine.

Every paramedic team in the UN force was mobilised. About 77 armoured UN vehicles rushed to the scene. Israeli warplanes continued to fire rockets that exploded near the base as rescue workers struggled to remove the dead and wounded. One ambulance came under helicopter fire; the driver and crew managed to leap to safety.

As rescue teams collected severed heads and scattered limbs, putting them in plastic bags, UN soldiers fought off crowds of women, weeping and tearing their hair as they struggled to get inside the compound to find out if their children were among the dead.

In front of a burnt-out shipping container, Muhammad Ghassan, from Qana, collapsed on the ground. My wife, my three sons and two daughters are dead in there. I made them sleep there so that they would be safe, while I stayed at home in the village. What is left for me? Why should I go on living?"

There was pandemonium at hospitals in Tyre when casualties arrived in private cars, ambulances and UN helicopters. "Where are you, God," screamed a woman, shaking her fists in despair. People rolled on the floors, weeping with pain and fury. Others stood, shaking their heads above their heads in frustrated rage and grief.

Hospital wards were slick with blood. Floors resounded



The body of a child is carried from a block of flats destroyed by Israeli warplanes in Nabatiyeh, a foretaste of the carnage to follow.

PHOTOGRAPH BY MOHAMED ZATARI

with walls, screams and shouting as the injured poured in and doctors gave them immediate but sometimes rough and ready treatment. One hospital in Tyre put the death toll at 97. Ehud Barak, the Israeli foreign minister, called it an "unfortunate mistake". Israel said its gunners had been responding to an attack from a Hizbullah Katyusha rocket fired from within 300 yards of the UN base. Hizbullah, in a statement from Beirut, denied it had fired from Qana.

The Israeli army's rules of engagement in any case do not allow firing at a target within 500 yards of a UN base. Some of the victims had gathered under a traditional beehive but that Fijian soldiers built to remind themselves of their Pacific island home. "There were many shells, and it caught fire," UN spokesman Timor Goksel said. "People were burning inside the building and it took a long time to convince the Israelis to stop firing," he said. "My white rubber shoes have turned red from the blood," said Hassan Seldawi, a Lebanese UN liaison officer said from the scene. "I had to

walk over bodies that covered the walkways at the base." The mutilated bodies of several children and other corpses were strewn about. Four Fijian soldiers were also wounded. Until yesterday, 88 Lebanese civilians had been reported killed in the Israeli offensive. The slaughter in Qana came on the eighth day of Israel's Grapes of Wrath campaign against Hizbullah guerrillas. Earlier in the day its warplanes destroyed a block of flats near the market town of Nabatiyeh, killing 11 people, including the wife of a

man who had just left on the pilgrimage to Mecca and his seven children. One was a four-day-old baby girl. Israeli leaders said their force would continue hitting Hizbullah targets until the Iranian-backed militia stopped launching Katyusha missiles into northern Israel. Hizbullah, which said it is almost totally unscathed by the Israeli offensive, fired more salvoes during the day. Najla Abu Jajja is a Reuters correspondent. Lebanon crisis, page 6; Leader comment, page 5



### Reactions

'We don't fire at buildings for no reason' Shimon Peres

'An unfortunate mistake' Ehud Barak, Israel's foreign minister

'My white rubber shoes have turned red from the blood' Hassan Seldawi, Lebanese UN liaison officer at Qana

'Unless and until the Hizbullah terrorists stop sheltering behind civilians, awful tragedies are inevitable' Greville Janner MP, vice-chairman of the British/Israeli Parliamentary group

'What we have to look at now is how we can prevent a recurrence' John Major

**RODDY DOYLE**

**THE WOMAN WHO WALKED INTO DOORS**

THE MAGNIFICENT NEW NOVEL FROM THE BOOKER PRIZE-WINNING AUTHOR OF PADDY CLARKE HA HA HA

## Saudi crisis looms despite Mas'ari climbdown

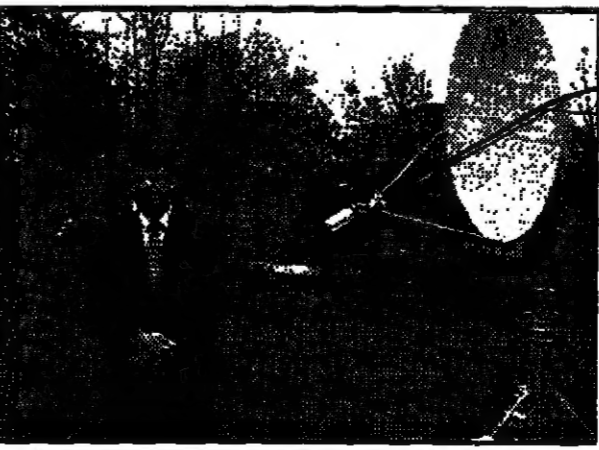


Mohammed al-Mas'ari

**Saudi dissidents** are poised to begin live radio and television broadcasts to Saudi Arabia from London within a fortnight, it emerged yesterday, just as the Government's climbdown over the deportation of Mohammed al-Mas'ari appeared to have defused the crisis in British-Saudi relations. Mr al-Mas'ari was told by a senior Home Office official that he would be allowed to live in Britain and campaign against the Saudi regime for at least four years. Last month, the Government's attempt to expel him to the

tiny Caribbean island of Dominica was overruled by the Chief Immigration Appeals Adjudicator. The decision to give the Islamist dissident full rights to travel and have his family live with him in Britain — which goes far beyond normal "exceptional leave" conditions — means Mr al-Mas'ari has been granted political asylum in all but name, immigration experts said last night. The Saudi authorities appeared to accept that the Government had made sufficient efforts to meet their demands for action against their critics in London. But Mr al-Mas'ari's rival Islamist dissident and former

right hand man, Sa'ad Faqih, yesterday unveiled a £150,000 home-made studio and battery of hi-tech broadcasting equipment in the north London suburb which looks certain to reignite the Saudi royal family's rage. His austere semi-detached house is to broadcast weekly anti-Saudi satellite propaganda to the oil-rich kingdom from the beginning of next month. Up to a million Saudis are estimated to have access to satellite television. Rumours that Mr al-Mas'ari and other Middle Eastern political exiles were planning to make *satellite* broadcasts from Britain led the Government to close a legal loophole. Turn to page 2, column 8



Sa'ad Faqih and the satellite dish to focus dissident's attacks

**Inside**  
The security forces believe the bomb that exploded in London on Wednesday night was part of an IRA strategy leading to a ceasefire. **5**

**Britain**  
The US government is still a long way from convicting the man all America blames for the Oklahoma bombing a year ago. **7**

**World News**  
Manufacturing growth is at its lowest level for more than two years, according to Chamber of Commerce figures. **11**

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**Sport**  
Ray Jivingworth's grasp on power in English cricket was weakened when the county sides denied him the selectors he wanted. **16**

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Sketch

The Tory rock candy mountain



Simon Hoggart

YOU can tell how desperate the Conservatives are from the first edition of their new tabloid paper. It's called 'Look'...

John Major was in Ukraine, so instead of the normal Prime Minister's Questions we had Heseltine versus Prescott. Mr Prescott began by pointing out that in 1990 the Deputy Prime Minister's analysis had been the only way of ensuring Conservative fortunes was to dump Prime Minister Thatcher...



Police examine the coach which was due to take tourists to Alexandria

Tourists massacred in Cairo

Ben Faulks and Emad Mekkay in Cairo

FOUR gunmen shot dead 17 mostly elderly Greek tourists and an Egyptian man at a Cairo hotel yesterday. Fifteen other tourists were wounded, three critically...

out there were people lying dead outside the hotel and people injured on the floor crying and screaming. A Greek tour guide said the coach acted as a shield 'otherwise there would be many more dead'...



Seventeen tourists and one Egyptian shot dead outside the Europa hotel

First night

The exhilaration of the grim reaper

Michael Billington

Endgame Donmar Warehouse

YOU don't have to share Beckett's deterministic vision of the universe to find Endgame a moving play. Or so it seemed watching Katie Mitchell's excellent new production...

strophic situation, to keep ennuil at bay. But the whole point of Mitchell's production is that recognisable human impulses survive even in a terminal situation...

Labour blames dirty tricks for car tax leak

Keith Harper Transport Editor

LABOUR Party leaders complained last night of a dirty tricks campaign to discredit them after revelations in yesterday's Guardian that a Blair government would seek to curb the use of company cars...

2000, which had been discarded. In the search to find the leak, party sources then started to suggest that senior party members could have been responsible. Later last night, Conservative Central Office was put forward as the likely culprit...

transport portfolio last year, and scrapped everything, I started from scratch. I am now on draft seven of Labour's transport policy document. Ms Short said the document would tackle the problem of urban congestion and the need to enhance the use of public transport through public consensus...

ard Farham, managing director of the British subsidiary of Peugeot, said that an increase in taxes would obviously be unfair to users of business cars. Pointing out that fleet sales were keeping the motor industry afloat in a difficult market, Mr Farham said company cars were replacing vehicles which were replaced by difficult economic conditions...

Leader comment, page 6; Paddy Ashdown, page 9

Saudi crisis looms despite Mas'ari climbdown

continued from page 1 last month which allowed broadcasts to non-European states without a licence. But Dr al-Faqih, a top laparoscopic surgeon from Riyadh - whose own application for political asylum has yet to be heard - said yesterday that his group had made arrangements to keep their radio and television channels entirely within the letter of British law...

Brown offers new hope for school failures

Michael White Political Editor

A REVIEW of the "elitist" financing of Britain's traditional system of post-16 education is being announced by Labour tonight in an effort to make equality of opportunity a reality for millions of people who fail at school but want a second chance later in life...

At the heart of Labour's proposed Individual Learning Accounts will be the concept - that everyone beyond the official school leaving age will become entitled to a defined amount of financial support from the state at some stage of their careers. Though the sensitive question of the charitable status of private schools will not be reopened, Mr Brown and the shadow education secretary, David Blunkett, will examine the "unfair system of tax reliefs" which boost educational trust funds for some students. This is part of their search for more effective funding that reflects a less elitist system.

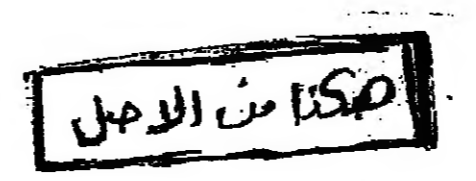
Mr Brown will make an attack on unfair and restrictive access to higher education - what he derides as the "one strike and you're out" approach to school drop-outs - in a speech intended to reassure potential voters that New Labour remains committed to equality of opportunity. He will unveil the plans in the John Smith Memorial Lecture, at Edinburgh University, as proposals for inclusion in the next Labour manifesto. Other points in the lecture will range from access to employment - for women and the long-term unemployed - to wider access to cultural and democratic opportunities. "Our view of society is one where both the economy and

the wider society flourish through a widespread extension of opportunity," he said yesterday. The shadow chancellor's speech comes days after Robin Cook, shadow foreign secretary, made what some colleagues regarded as an "Old Labour" appeal to uphold party values at the Scottish TUC. The Brown speech will specifically reject "equality of outcome" - long advocated by Roy Hattersley among others - as unrealistic. To explore options for expanding educational opportunity, Mr Brown and Mr Blunkett yesterday reached agreement to launch a six-month public spending review into the way educa-

tion for the over-16s is funded or, in many cases, not funded by the state at all. In the case of NVQs, a student aged between 16 and 18 does not get automatic help with tuition fees. Every full-time university student does get funding. "The question is not why 35 per cent of young people now go into higher education, but why 65 per cent do not," Mr Brown will say after citing new data suggesting that children of unskilled manual workers have no better chance of getting higher education now than in 1914. Only 10 per cent of the children of professional families leave school at 16, compared with 80 per cent of those born to the unskilled.

A Canon fax can cross the world

In a matter of seconds, the Canon B100 can send a fax to any other fax machine





Classic TV campaigns, from left, the VW Changes advert featuring Paula Hamilton, Hamlet's bald man in a photo booth, Leonard Rosester and Joan Collins for Cinzano Bianco, and Maureen Lipman in British Telecom's 'Ology' commercial

# Happiness is a place in the top 100 TV commercials

Hamlet, Volkswagen, and the Guardian make it on to definitive list of all-time great advertisements, reports **Andrew Culf**

FOR some viewers they present the ideal opportunity to pop out and put the kettle on; for others they are a better source of entertainment than the programmes they interrupt. Now creative directors at 30 of the country's top advertising agencies have assembled the definitive list of the top 100 television commercials of all time. The long-lasting impact of many campaigns is unarguable: the on-off teasing saga of Nescafé's Gold Blend couple spawned almost as many newspaper column inches as a television soap, while characters such as Campari's Laiton airport girl Lorraine Chase, Yellow Pages' fly fisherman JR Hartley, and the PG Tips chimps became national institutions. But none of these advertisements have been selected for the new video from the Institute of Practitioners in Advertising, which is a celebration of the television commercial as an art form. The video, *Now That's What I Call Advertising*, does however include Leonard Rosester's classic double act with Joan Collins for Cinzano Bianco, the Martians which featured in Cadbury's advertisement for Smash, and Maureen Lipman as Beattie in

**Selling lines**  
for the VW Beetle, which showed how the snowplough driver managed to get to work to drive the snowplough. Also featured is the 1987 VW Changes advert, in which Paula Hamilton sulkily discarded almost everything — house keys, ring, pearls and fur coat — but decided against dropping her car keys down the drain. Six advertisements for Levi jeans made the top 100, including the laundrette striptease, and the man who got into the bath to shrink his jeans. Two of Hamlet's cigar campaigns were nominated: the balding man struggling unsuccessfully to get his picture taken in the passport photo booth and the frustrated golfer who found himself trapped in the bunker. The Guardian's 1989 campaign in which a businessman appeared about to be attacked by a skinhead, but was in fact being saved from being struck by falling masonry, also featured strongly. The creative directors, who were each asked for 10 choices, included Tony Cox of BHP, DDB Needham, Trevor Beattie of TBWA, Keith Courtney of K Advertising, and Andrew Cracknell of AP Lintas. Chris O'Shea, joint creative director of Banks Hoggins

Top five TV advertisers  
Number of commercials in the top 100:  
□ Volkswagen — 9  
□ Levi Jeans — 6  
□ Heineken Lager — 5  
□ Holsten Pils — 5  
□ John Smith Bitter — 3  
Ten favourite adverts  
Commercials with most mentions:  
□ Carling Black Label: Dambusters (1990)  
□ The Guardian: Skinhead (1989)  
□ Hamlet Cigars: Photo booth (1988)  
□ Heineken Lager: Wordsworth spoof (1982)  
□ Lego: Klipper (1975)  
□ Levi Jeans 501: Laundrette (1985)  
□ Levi Jeans 501: Bathroom (1985)  
□ Hamlet Cigars: You've been Tangy'd (1991)  
□ VW Beetle: Snowplough (1987)  
□ VW Changes: Paula Hamilton (1987)  
British Telecom's "Ology" commercial.  
The most successful advertiser was Volkswagen which secured nine of the 100 slots, including its 1983 commercial

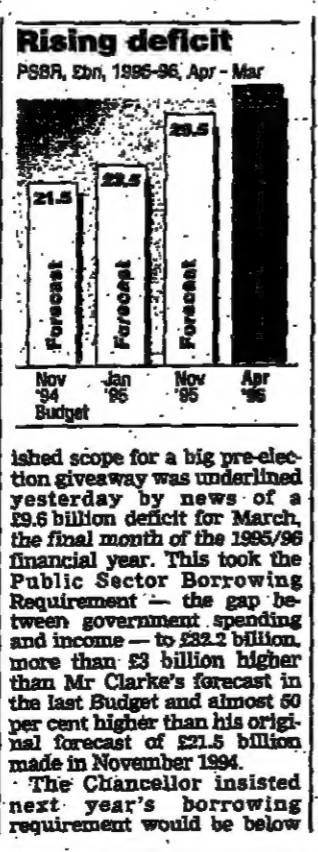
O'Shea, who also participated, said: "It was a reminder how advertising is like a living history. It is useful to take the occasional snapshot." His selection had come from advertisements with an instant recall factor, including the Chas and Dave song Gercha for Courage bitter, and the robots building the Fiat Strada to the accompaniment of Figaro. The essential ingredients for advertisements to withstand the test of time included humour and emotion. "They can be impressive pieces of film-making, using incredibly advanced techniques and many could be classified as semi-art." Surprising omissions according to Simon Law, communications planner with K Advertising, who compiled the results, included Boddington's Cream of Manchester and Nike's world football campaign. The video does not rank the advertisements in order of merit, but the findings are markedly different from a recent poll for the trade magazine Campaign. This showed the public most liked Gary Lineker's appearances for Walker's crisps and Harry, the child supermarket trolley star of Safeway's campaign. Mr O'Shea commented: "We become purists — creative directors choose what they arrogantly term as good strong ideas. It is great to sit there with the video for 1 1/2 hours and luxuriate in good ads."



Clockwise from top left, a skinhead saves a businessman from a mugging by masonry in the Guardian's advertisement

## Call for audit over Clarke's £32bn deficit

**Larry Elliott**  
Economics Editor  
**T**HE Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, last night spurned Opposition calls for an independent audit of the Treasury's books in the run-up to the Budget after news of a £29 billion deficit last year. The £3 billion overshoot on November's Treasury forecast intensified speculation that the Government will have to ignore the state of its finances to deliver pre-election tax cuts. Labour is keen to avoid a re-run of the 1992 election when tax cuts were justified by wildly optimistic government forecasts. The shadow chancellor, Gordon Brown, said an outside inquiry was needed "so that the Conservative Party can never mislead the people of this country about tax and borrowing again". However, Mr Clarke said he would only cut taxes in November's Budget if it proved to be affordable. "It would be wholly wrong to attempt to buy the next election by irresponsible tax cuts, and we have no intention of doing so," he told the Commons. The Government's dim-



£20 billion, adding: "It is quite clear the borrowing requirement in this country is on a downward path towards balance in the medium term, which is the foundation of our policy." The Liberal Democrat leader, Paddy Ashdown, said the issue of tax lay at the heart of the crisis of public trust in our politics. Writing in today's Guardian, he attacked Labour's lack of specific pledges on tax, adding: "We are determined to be clear about what we want and how we pay for it — even if that means, for instance, having to put a penny on income tax for education. The received wisdom is that this will damage us. But I have a hunch that people want the truth about tax more than they want reassuring promises they can't believe in." City analysts believe Mr Clarke's forecast of a £22.5 billion PSBR for the 1996/97 financial year is also unlikely to be met, but expect him to reduce taxes anyway. "With hindsight we can question the validity of the tax cuts that have just been implemented and can ask whether there is scope for tax cuts in this year's Budget," said Geoffrey Dicks, chief

economist with NatWest markets. "With the PSBR still running at 3.5 per cent of gross domestic product on our forecast of £26.7 billion, the obvious answer is no. Nevertheless, we are assuming tax cuts of about £3 billion in November." The PSBR peaked at £45.4 billion in 1993/94, and fell to £35.9 billion in 1994/95. Excluding privatisation receipts — which are drying up — the fall has been steeper, from £50 billion in 1993/94 to £24.5 billion in 1995/96. The Treasury is undertaking an investigation into why forecasts for the PSBR have been too optimistic in recent years. Tight control has been kept of spending, but the Chancellor's predictions have been undermined by weak tax revenues. Of the £3.2 billion overshoot since the 1995 Budget, £1.25 billion was accounted for by lower than anticipated corporation tax receipts, with income tax and VAT both about £750 million lower than forecast. Officials will look at the impact of the growth in part-time work, the size of the hidden economy and the extent of company tax avoidance.

**Taking sides**  
**Arguments for not cutting taxes:**  
□ We can't afford it. Britain is already borrowing to finance spending.  
□ The November Budget put the 1995/96 PSBR at £29 billion — the actual figure was £32.4 billion.  
□ The PSBR will stay high because part-time work is hitting income tax, job insecurity is cutting VAT by depressing consumer spending and firms are avoiding corporation tax.  
□ Public expenditure brakes will come off ahead of a general election.  
□ Tax cuts now would be rescinded after polling day.  
**Arguments for cutting taxes:**  
□ We can afford it. The PSBR is on a firm downward trend.  
□ We need only to cut the budget deficit. Economic growth will do that anyway.  
□ Cutting taxes increases tax revenues by encouraging people to work harder and making tax avoidance less attractive.  
□ Public spending is still far too high and can be cut.  
□ Votes, votes, votes.

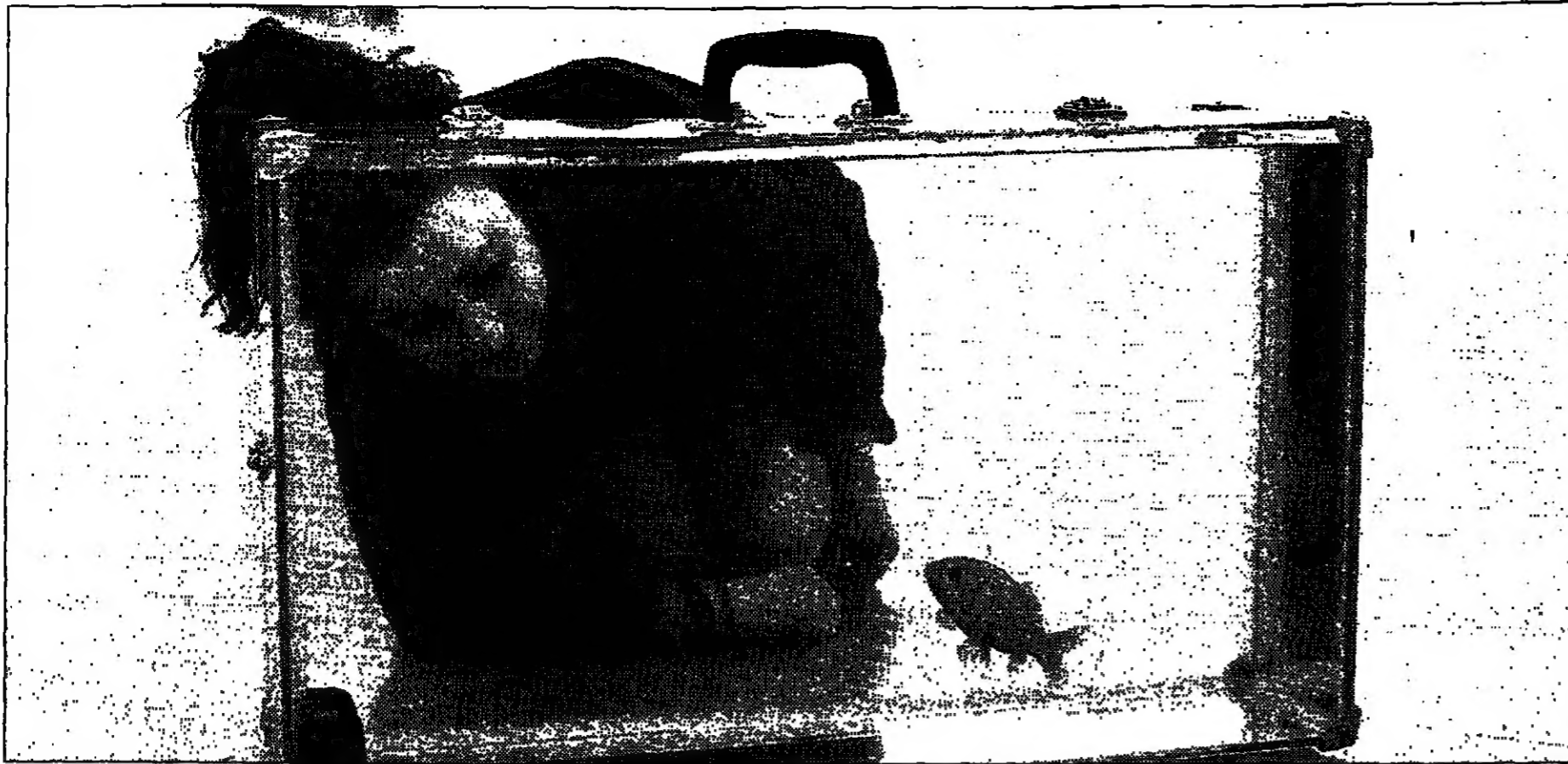
## Britain tells EU that it does not want to use £20m on offer for projects to fight poverty and racism

**John Palmer**  
and **Stephen Bates**  
**T**HE Government is trying to block the use of European Union money in Britain to combat racism despite agreeing earlier this year to support an EU summit declaration outlawing racism and xenophobia. The employment minister, Eric Forth, says in a letter to the European social affairs commissioner, Padraig Flynn, that £20 million intended as Britain's share of a proposed extension to an EU programme to tackle poverty and racism would be better spent elsewhere. But the European Commission indicated last night that the Government's suggestion would not be accepted. The money, due to be spent over two years from 1997, is for specific projects, including schemes to tackle discrimination and to help victims. Mr Forth protests in his letter that the commission should "take account of sensitivities in the UK about the Commission's competence in tackling racism and xenophobia". He goes on to express his

unhappiness at the emphasis being given by the commission to measures against racism in Horizon — a programme which funds job training and job creation in the 15 member states. "It seems not only unnecessary, but also provocative to insist that all countries should sign up to guidelines with explicit references to the combating of racism and xenophobia," Mr Forth declares. He also calls on Mr Flynn and the commission "to remove these references". The leak of Mr Forth's letter to the commission triggered a political row yesterday in the European Parliament in Strasbourg. Labour and other leftwing MEPs expressed alarm that the British government appeared to be reluctant to implement measures to tackle poverty and racism. After hesitating for some months, the Home Secretary, Michael Howard, agreed earlier this year to support action by the EU to deal with racism and xenophobia, as called for by successive summits of EU leaders in the past year. Arlene McCarthy, the Labour Party spokesperson on regional affairs in the

European Parliament, said yesterday: "It is Eric Forth's letter which is provocative. He should apologise immediately and withdraw his objections to the European Commission putting aside money for practical projects to combat racism. There is a surging tide of racism in Europe which urgently needs to be stemmed. This cannot be done just by fine words. It needs practical projects in local communities." This is the second time in a year that the Government has refused to take EC money to deal with unemployment. Ms McCarthy said that Britain still had not spent some £70 million made available by Brussels to retrain workers who faced redundancy because of technological or economic developments. Yesterday the commission would not comment directly but one official said that the commission wanted to extend funding for training and job creation, which was due to run out in 1997, for a further two years. The extended fund could be spent on new initiatives, including one designed for victims of social and racial discrimination. **Letters, page 8**

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Art student Victoria Travis studying part of James Chinneck's entry, Suitcases, in the New Contemporaries exhibition in Liverpool

### Fish eyes punters from a suitcase. But is it really art?

Maryn Haisall

DAI VAUGHAN thought the goldfish was rather enjoying the art show. "It's just looking at a lot of culture vultures as opposed to people slouching in front of the telly," he said. "It looks like a very happy fish to me."

The goldfish was yesterday unavailable for comment, trawling the inside of a glass suitcase on the floor of the Tate Gallery in Liverpool. In the best tradition of Hirst's dissected sheep, Goya's naked maids and Dalí's writhing matches, the fish was gulping in some eye-catching publicity. Its sealed tank stood across the gallery from four other glass suitcases, one on a trolley. They were exhibited by James Chinneck, one of 33 successful entrants of more than 1,500 submissions for this year's New Contemporaries exhibition.

## Holloway staff criticised over woman prisoner's suicide

### Inquest finds gross failure to provide supervision

Alan Travis Home Affairs Editor

A GROSS failure by prison staff to provide basic supervision to a woman classed by police as an exceptional suicide risk contributed directly to her death, a coroner's inquest ruled yesterday. The jury at the City of London coroner's court returned the unusual verdict of "suicide contributed to by neglect" in the case of Claire Bosley, of Basingstoke, Hampshire.

Her death was described as particularly desperate — she choked herself with toilet tissues. "This woman disappeared without a trace for 1½ hours and no one bothered to look for her," said Tim Owen, her family's barrister. Her death on November 25 came one week before the Chief Inspector of Prisons walked out of the jail in disgust at the conditions there. The jury's unanimous decision followed a warning by the coroner, Paul Matthews, that they could only return a "neglect" verdict if they were sure it was directly connected with the suicide. "In the context of this case, we are talking about the supervision of a person thought to be a suicide risk and a gross failure to provide medical attention," the coroner said.

such required constant supervision. Pauline Martindale, the senior officer on duty at Holloway reception on Mrs Bosley's arrival, said she was short staffed. Nearly half the prisoners who arrive at Holloway have exceptional risk forms attached to their files, she said. Miss Martindale, who is part of the suicide awareness training team at Holloway, had questioned Mrs Bosley and decided she "was not in crisis". She put her in a holding area on her own while two disruptive prisoners were dealt with. Her body was found 80 minutes later. After the verdict, a Prison Service statement said an internal investigation at Holloway had already recommended changes: "We will make sure that any lessons that can be learnt from this distressing incident are learnt, to help prevent a similar tragedy."

### Brother tells of the 'morbid jealousy' that led to murder

CLAIRE Bosley, 34, and her husband, Barry, by all accounts had a happy, loving marriage, at least until a year ago, writes Alan Travis.



Claire Bosley: had 'happy loving marriage'

The couple, who married in 1981 when Mrs Bosley was 20, lived in Basingstoke, Hampshire. They had a son, Thomas, now aged 9. But both had medical problems. Mrs Bosley had had two ectopic pregnancies, one seven years ago and the other last May, which meant she was unable to have any more children. Mr Bosley had had several kidney transplants. But as her brother, David Rummings, told the inquest, Mrs Bosley, soon after leaving hospital in May, developed "a morbid jealousy" that her husband was having an affair with the woman next door. The couple started to have rows, about her suspicions and about money. Despite attempts by both their parents to allay Mrs Bosley's fears, she began to threaten to commit suicide. "I guess that there was a time bomb within her," Mr Rummings said.

It exploded on November 25 last year when she stabbed her husband to death. The next day while at Newbury police station she tried to choke herself with tissues but constant police supervision prevented her. After being transferred to Basingstoke police station she tried again by hitting her head against a wall and again by choking herself. At one point she told a WPC: "I am a horrible person. I have killed somebody." At Holloway, when was asked by prison officers if she wanted to take her own life, she had replied: "I did last week, but I am OK now."

## Diggle fined £75 for being drunk

David Pallister

THE solicitor who gained notoriety by attempting to rape a colleague while wearing detachable frilly cuffs, spectacles and a green condom has had another drunken brush with the law. Angus Diggle, aged 38, was fined £75 with £25 costs by Bolton magistrates yesterday for being drunk and disorderly. Sergeant Ian Campbell told the court that Diggle told him: "The criminal justice system and the Home Secretary in this country are slime and so are you."



Angus Diggle: court told he called police 'slime'

The incident happened on a Sunday afternoon last November in the town's red light district. Diggle approached two policemen who were interviewing a man and two women, one a prostitute. Told to go home, he was alleged to have asked: "Do you know who I am? I'm a famous person." In 1993, Diggle was sentenced to three years in prison for attempting to rape a 25-year-old lawyer he had taken to a Highland ball in London. He admitted he had been "very tired and emotional." In court yesterday, Sgt Campbell said Diggle had been "argumentative and unco-operative." After repeated warnings he was arrested and handcuffed. In his defence, Diggle said he had had four or five glasses of wine with his lunch and was on his way to the railway station when he saw the women being interviewed. "I thought if they were in trouble, and I had not seen ladies in trouble with police before, I must go over and tell them to see a solicitor as soon as they could."

## Police blame professional agitators for Newbury bill

John Vidal

POLICE and road protesters yesterday clashed over compensation that professional demonstrators had driven the cost of policing the Newbury bypass to over £3.5 million, and that the police had acted partially on behalf of the Government. In the first public post-mortem since the bypass route was cleared earlier this month, senior police officers showed videos of protesters wielding knives against balliffs and mounted a display of weapons. Police claimed to have found on the site. The vast majority have been well meaning people with a social conscience, but a minority could be cast as professional agitators, Chief Inspector Charles Pollard said. He accused them of doing more damage to the environment than the road builders at certain sites and of slashing two tyres on one police vehicle. There had been 770 arrests, the majority for alleged minor offences, Mr Pollard said. Seventy-two people had been arrested four times. But the protesters accused the police of telling only one side of the story. "They consistently ignored our complaints," said one protester in Newbury yesterday. "It was blatantly obvious that there was wrong being done against us. It seemed they could not see anything." A Friends of the Earth spokesman said: "We have documentary evidence of what seems like brutality against some of the protesters. We are dismayed that high-level police officers seemed to be trying to manipulate public opinion against what was overwhelmingly a peaceful protest."

## Old Etonian sues lawyers on £50m will

Clare Dyer Legal Correspondent

AN Old Etonian took Britain's biggest firm of solicitors to the High Court yesterday, alleging it was negligent in not ensuring his multi-millionaire great uncle finalised his will before his death. Dominic Truist, aged 22, is suing Clifford Chance, the world's second biggest law firm, for up to £1 million for not making sure Eric Hopton, who was worth £20 million, executed a new will before he died of a heart failure in January 1991. Mr Truist, a student at Edinburgh university, has legal aid for the case, although he and his brother are beneficiaries under a £15 million discretionary trust set up as part of a family arrangement after the death. If he loses, the case could cost the taxpayer up to £250,000.

His counsel, David Oliver QC, told Mr Justice Jonathan Parker that Mr Hopton, who was in very poor health in 1990 after a major heart attack, had expressed a desire to change his will since March that year. A series of drafts of a new will and for a number of family settlements, which would have benefited Mr Truist among others, were drawn up but were not executed when Mr Hopton died. Mr Truist was suing for the difference between what he actually received and what he claims, he would have received under the new will. Mr Oliver said that Mr Bowyer went on a three-month sabbatical from August to November 1990,

and Mr Hopton was quite happy to leave the amendments until his return. After he returned, Mr Bowyer wrote to George Staple, then a partner with the firm and now director of the Serious Fraud Office, that he could not think of any will, in his 23 years' experience, which was so important to get right and could create such problems if they got it wrong. By the beginning of December, Mr Bowyer had begun "putting pen to paper" on the new will and a second draft had been sent to Mr Hopton by Christmas. He was expecting to go through the amendments when his client returned to London from Devon on January 5. On January 2, Mr Bowyer was advised by Christopher Hopton not to send his uncle

any letters which might worry him but to wait for the meeting. But the next day, Mr Hopton was admitted to hospital in London, where he died 10 days later. The firm and Mr Bowyer deny acting in breach of duty, and say the instructions they received were not sufficient to enable the will to be completed more quickly. Mr Oliver said that the firm was negligent, certainly as from January 2, when it learned that Mr Hopton had fallen ill again. Michael Briggs, QC for Clifford Chance, said Mr Truist would not have benefited from the family settlement under the new will. A separate £300,000 trust was to have been set up for him and his brother. The hearing was adjourned until Monday.

## Parents who pacify babies with dummies may nurture dummies

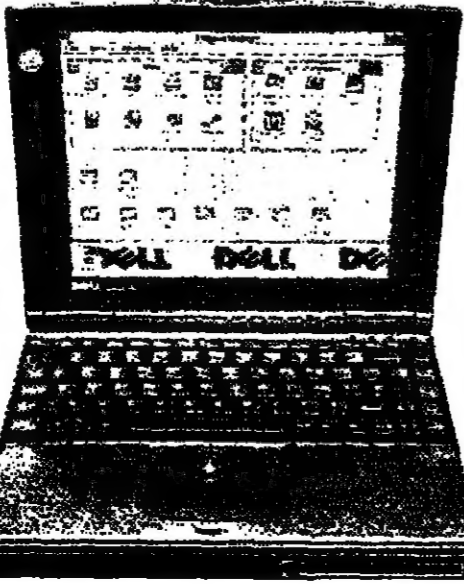
Sue Quinn

PARENTS who pacify babies with dummies are achieving peace and quiet at the expense of their children's intelligence, according to a study. Researchers stumbled on a "strong association" between dummy use and lower than average intelligence in adults during a study to determine whether breast feeding affected IQ. Although dummy use has been a long-running parent-child dilemma, it is the first time such a link has been demonstrated. The researchers surmise that dummies may render infants less receptive to outside stimuli, or that parents whose babies are

kept quiet with dummies may not interact sufficiently with their children. Researchers Catherine Gale and Christopher Martyn, of the Medical Research Council environmental epidemiology unit at Southampton university, tested almost 1,000 men and women born between 1920 and 1930 in Hertfordshire. Those who had sucked dummies typically scored four IQ points lower than those who had not. Ms Gale, whose findings were published in the *Lancet* yesterday, said the results were surprising. "Statistically, dummy use was the strongest predictor for lower intelligence." No link was found between breast-feeding and higher intelligence.

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28 April

Branches Nation

Republicans attempt to prove they can strike at will, while former comrade discloses links with Catholic clergy

# Earl's Court bomb 'part of ceasefire plan'

## More minor blasts are expected

Duncan Campbell  
Alan Murray and  
Richard Norton-Taylor

THE security services believe the bomb that exploded in west London on Wednesday night was part of an IRA strategy leading to a ceasefire. The explosion was being interpreted differently by the Irish and United Kingdom governments.

John Major said during a visit to Prague that the peace process would continue regardless of such attacks. But the Irish prime minister, John Bruton, said in Dublin that it was "another setback for those working for the peace process".

The bomb, described by police as a "small, improvised device", exploded shortly before 10pm on Wednesday in The Boltons, Earl's Court, west London, following an imprecise coded call to the London bureau of Associated Press. No one was injured and little damage caused.

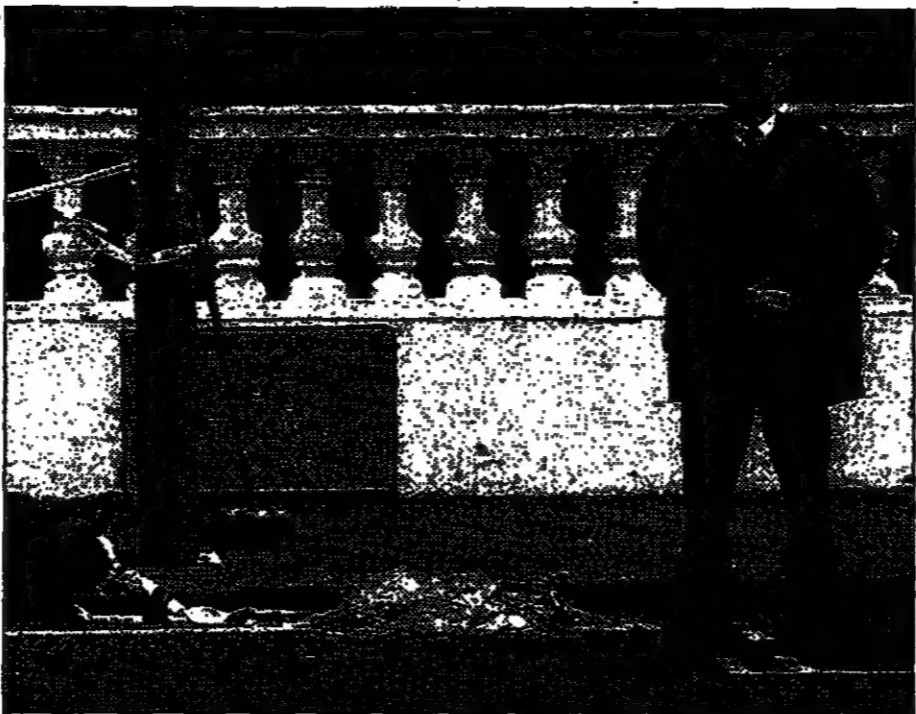
The security services had been anticipating a bomb attack of this nature. Their interpretation of the IRA's strategy in the lead-up to the election is that there would be a number of minor bombs to be followed by an announcement of a ceasefire around

the time of the elections on May 30. Since the huge explosion near Canary Wharf on February 9, the IRA has preferred the use of smaller devices to convey its message. The timing and the small size of the bomb in The Boltons would be calculated by the IRA to exert political pressure without having the door firmly slammed on Gerry Adams.

Condemnation of the IRA from the Clinton administration and influential Irish Americans has been sustained since the Canary Wharf carnage. Risking loss of life again in another large explosion in or around London would almost certainly prevent Sinn Féin from participating in the all-party talks on June 10.

The importance to the IRA of continuing the mainland campaign is twofold: firstly it indicates that, despite the death of Ed O'Brien on the 171 bus in Aldwych in February, they have the capability to strike when they like; secondly, it allows them to call a ceasefire which will be noticeable in the period leading up to the Northern Ireland elections - if there were no bombs in the interim, the ceasefire would have little resonance.

Conditions outlined by the Government on Tuesday for



Police cordon off the area after Wednesday's bomb

PHOTOGRAPH BY MICHAEL CRASTINE

Sinn Féin's participation are principally a renewed IRA ceasefire and the decommissioning of weapons. Privately, however, neither the security services nor mainstream Unionists are much concerned about decommissioning. It is mainly symbolic, an acknowledgement by the IRA that the war was over.

Security sources believe that the IRA's army council is having difficulty in reaching a consensus over a pre-election strategy but assume it will come out with a carefully-worded ceasefire announcement. The IRA is also looking to see whether there is any movement on the issue of prisoners. There is a widespread feeling of disillusionment that the Government has made few concessions in this area. There is also a desire on the part of the IRA to avoid another 'own goal'.

## Priests 'aided IRA gunmen and rejoiced at murders'

David Pallister

AN IRA gunman who turned police informer has claimed that Catholic priests gave support to republican volunteers and sometimes rejoiced in the murders they carried out. Sean O'Callaghan, serving a double life sentence for two murders in the early 1970s, is held in a special unit for informers at Maghaberry prison in Northern Ireland.

He claims, in today's Spectator magazine, that after the killing of Special Branch officer Peter Fiamagan in Omagh in 1974 he and two colleagues sought refuge in a priest's house and were treated like heroes. "We were greeted joyfully, showered with holy water and prayers and fed like kings," he wrote. As they sat eating, one of the priests is said to have described the murdered officer as "an abominable man who abandoned his faith and sold his soul to the devil".

The next day, he says, they left the house and the priests scouted ahead to make sure there were no security blocks on the road.



'We were greeted joyfully, and showered with holy water and prayers'

Police informer Sean O'Callaghan

and Information Office in Dublin said the church had consistently denounced paramilitary violence. "Any encouragement, help or support of IRA activities by an individual priest would rightly be regarded as totally reprehensible."

The spokesman said there would have been about six priests in the Omagh area at the time. "To present any of them as giving shelter to IRA gunmen following a murder could be seen as casting a slur on any or all of them, which would be most unjust."

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## 'Briton in chains' appeals to FO

David Pallister

PADJ Grecian, the British businessman fighting extradition from South Africa to the US on charges of arms dealing with Iraq, has twice been forced to wear leg chains and handcuffs on visits to the dentist, he reveals in a letter smuggled to the Foreign Office from prison in Johannesburg.

Grecian appealed to Jeremy Hanley, the Foreign Office Minister, to intervene to secure his release as he considered his detention and the ex-

tradition request to be a miscarriage of justice.

His case, to be heard before magistrates on Tuesday, has become increasingly bizarre since his arrest on an Interpol warrant at Johannesburg airport in December.

His fourth appeal for bail, before the Supreme Court in January, was rejected, partly on the grounds that the judges believed British intelligence might spirit him out of the country in a submarine. Last month the magistrates who ordered his extradition resigned after he admitted making his ruling

without hearing the full defence case. The judgment was declared void.

Grecian, a regular contact of the Special Branch, alerted the intelligence services to the Iraq supergun in 1988. In 1993 as managing director of the firm Ordix he was convicted of supplying a fuse assembly line to Iraq.

After the revelations in the Matrix Churchill case, the convictions against him and three colleagues were quashed on the grounds that documents showing government knowledge of the trade had been withheld. The

American charges relate to acquiring parts for the fuses.

Grecian went to South Africa knowing that an Interpol warrant from the US had been issued for his arrest in 1984. He sought assurances from South African officials that he would not be detained, but was arrested.

Grecian's father and friends believe there is a political dimension to the case. South Africa is trying to regularise its relations with the US over defence sales.

The Foreign Office said yesterday its consular staff would reply to his letter.

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Clamour grows for ceasefire • Israeli credit running out • Pro-Western Arab governments feel popular outrage

# Fanaticism's vile double-headed serpent

## Analysis

David Hirst in Beirut

IT WAS a day of atrocities in the Middle East. On the eighth day of its Grapes of Wrath operation in Lebanon, Israeli aircraft added to their steadily lengthening list of civilian victims by killing a mother, seven children and a visiting relative in a "pin-point" raid on a house in Nabatiyeh, and then by killing nearly 100 civilians who had taken refuge at a United Nations peacekeepers base.

In Cairo, four unidentified gunmen, certainly from the fanatical Gama'at al-Islamiyah, or Islamic Groups, slaughtered 17

Greek tourists and an Egyptian man. The atrocities are intimately linked in the minds of Arabs everywhere. For them, what the Israelis have been doing in Lebanon is another example of the "state terrorism" by which Israel was built, and by which it has been sustained, at Palestinian and Arab expense, ever since.

What the Islamist fanatics did is typical, too — an example of their readiness to unleash random barbarities on innocent victims, with foreign tourists the choice targets.

There are of course specifically Egyptian reasons, quite unrelated to the Arab-Israeli conflict, why these fanatics do what they do. The reasons are rooted in poverty, unemployment, over-population, corrup-

tion, remoteness and authority. There is at bottom a socio-economic protest, for which "political Islam" of the most extreme and bigoted kind furnishes the ideological justification.

The Egyptian government had of late been claiming that it had smashed its indigenous Islamist terrorism. And a booming tourist trade was proof of that.

But such successes were always liable to be short-lived so long as the basic causes of discontent remained. These have if anything grown worse, especially since December's general election, the most corrupt in Egypt's history, and the incontrovertible evidence that furnished to the Islamist opposition, its non-violent

moderate wing no less than its extreme one, that it could never find a voice through parliamentary process.

The Cairo massacre, on the road to the pyramids, is a mighty blow to the government's claims. Doubtless the four gunmen had specifically Egyptian reasons enough to justify it. But the timing cannot but give it a wider meaning. The "Zionists" — or just "the Jews" as they often call them — loom as large in the demagoguery of Egyptian Islamists as any other. Israel is the embodiment of Western or Judeo-Christian "oppression" implanted in the very heart of the Arab-Muslim world.

Whether or not Israeli, rather than Greek, tourists were the intended target, there is no question that in

the minds of these fanatics the murder of any Western tourist is a fit response to what the Israelis are doing to their fellow-Muslims in Lebanon.

Throughout the Arab world this morning there will be countless newspaper editorials lamenting the bad name these Muslims give to Islam but seeking to explain the logic behind their actions. They will say, basically, that Israeli fanaticism has given rise to another, the Islamists. That, though not representative of society as a whole, it reflects the deep anger and frustrations fermenting in it. That by its inaction and impotence, every Arab government is exacerbating the popular outrage, despair and humiliation. But that the greatest shame falls upon

pro-Western governments, and above all those such as Egypt and Jordan, which have made peace with Israel.

In one way or another, they will echo a front-page editorial on Wednesday by Ibrahim Naffi, the editor of Cairo's al-Ahram. It has a prophetic ring. But what lends it special importance is the fact that al-Ahram is the voice of the Egyptian establishment, and Mr Naffi could be called the voice of President Hosni Mubarak.

"It is impossible", he said, "to underestimate the scope of the anger sweeping the Arab masses, including our people here in Egypt, in reaction to Israel's continued killings and scorched-earth policy". These were the excesses of an Israel which did not expect to be held to account

by the great powers, especially the United States. They were making it impossible for Arab governments to go on controlling the reaction of the Arab people, who are "bound to revolt against such humiliation".

WHEREAS "crises between governments can be manageable, social conflicts are more difficult to control, especially when they involve all layers of society... What Israel is doing now is returning the question of life or death where the Arab peoples are concerned... These operations may be vote-winners in national elections but they unweave the depth of Israeli hatred for everything Arab, which in turn breeds

a desire for revenge among the Arabs.

"If a car is burned in Israel, she finds it enough reason to burn a whole country and displace its population. That — a thousand teeth for one tooth — makes Israeli state terrorism into racism," writes Mr Naffi.

How long, asks Mr Mubarak's most authoritative mouthpiece, "can Arab governments remain committed to peace when Israel itself chooses to blow up all its foundations?"

"What Israel and the great powers who gave her the green light to engulf the people of Lebanon in this inferno need to know is this: the Israeli operations are stabbing peace to death and could destroy everything that has been accomplished on the path of peace."

## Bitter aftertaste to grapes of wrath

Derek Brown in Jerusalem

THE Israeli get-tough policy in Lebanon was in disarray last night, the country's leaders floundering under international condemnation and domestic consternation.

The prime minister, Shimon Peres, said yesterday: "I am sorry that citizens of Lebanon were killed, but Hizbullah is to blame." He convened an emergency inner cabinet session to review the army's eight-day bombardment of south Lebanon.

The Israeli army chief, Amnon Shahak, said: "This is not the first time that terrorists, during this operation and previous operations, fired from areas close to United Nations positions."

He added: "There was no mistake on Israel's part. When we are fired upon, we will fire back."

Even after yesterday's massacres, there is no certainty that Israel will call off its hi-tech assault.

The hawkish foreign minister, Ehud Barak, predicted that the military operation, codenamed Grapes of Wrath, would continue, possibly for another week or longer.

"I am sure that along with everyone else we are very sorry about any harm done to civilians," he told Israeli television.

Mr Barak was the army's chief of staff until early 1995, and has been among the most fervent supporters of the current military campaign against Hizbullah.

With few exceptions, the political establishment backed the operation, though some left-leaning politicians had reservations about its scale, and about the ruthless treatment of civilians.

Among commentators, it was widely accepted that Israel had accumulated a vast credit of international goodwill and backing after the grisly series of Islamist suicide bombings in February and March, and the subsequent 27-nation summit in Egypt, which resoundingly condemned terrorism.

In all its dealings since then, including the current

operation in Lebanon, Israel has had the unequalled support of the United States, President Bill Clinton losing no opportunity to praise his key Middle East ally.

Now, in the view of at least some observers, Israel's credit could be fast running out, even in Washington.

Already, for the generals in charge of operations in south Lebanon, the Grapes of Wrath have turned horribly sour.

Throughout the bombardment, Hizbullah units have given the lie to military claims that they were "on the run" and "demoralised" by firing scores of Katyusha rock-

fired. Israel has the very latest in US-supplied howitzers and other heavy weaponry, some of it fitted with radar devices which lock on to a target.

Yet yesterday the same army with the same death-dealing machinery managed to hit a long-established United Nations base up to 400 yards from the target.

In yesterday's other mass killing, a family of nine was wiped out when helicopters rocketed a house near the Hizbullah stronghold town of Nabatiyeh.

The army explained that one of its bases in Israeli-occupied south Lebanon had come under attack, and that the gunmen had fled into the house, which was therefore fired on.

Mr Peres said he was "surprised" by the killings.

"We only hit at those buildings from which Katyushas were fired," he said. "But naturally Nabatiyeh was supposed to be vacant."

He was speaking at a news conference after two hours of talks with the Palestinian president, Yasser Arafat, at which they agreed measures to restore momentum to their flagging peace accords.

Mr Arafat praised Mr Peres for his efforts to fight Islamist extremists. Several hundred activists and supporters of the Hamas and Islamic Jihad movement have been rounded up by the Palestinian police since the suicide bombings.

Mr Arafat said he would convene a special session of the Palestinian National Council (PNC) in the Gaza Strip next week to debate the removal of the clauses in the PLO charter which call for the destruction of Israel.

The outcome of the PNC meeting is by no means certain, however. Several PLO hardliners have said they will vote against the amendment, which requires a two-thirds majority.

One of those who oppose the change is Leila Khaled, the former hijacker and self-proclaimed freedom fighter, who crossed into the West Bank yesterday and spoke of her delight in being back in Palestine, drawing noisy protests from Jewish settlers.



Deafening strike... An Israeli soldier covers his ears as a canon fires at Hizbullah targets in south Lebanon yesterday. PHOTOGRAPH BY EYAL WARSHAVSKY

"We only hit at buildings from which Katyushas were fired", Mr Peres said

## Grief gives way to rage as children's bodybags arrive

### Eyewitness

Najla Abu Jahjah in Tyre

OLD men and women wept with grief and the young screamed with agony and rage as the children were brought in, two or three little bodies packed into each bag.

Red Cross workers carried in the big orange bags, put them on the hospital floor and unzipped them. They felt the pulse of each child to be sure they were dead, then zipped them up again.

"Oh, what a crime," one Red Cross worker said.

In the hallways and wards, the wounded and bereaved shouted, waved their arms or writhed on the floor in grief and a din of shrieking and weeping. The floors were slippery with blood.

On the floor of an operating theatre, a young man lay dying, apparently forgotten, his shirt torn off.

Outside, in the streets of

this ancient Lebanese city, crowds of women wailed as the dead, wounded and dying were brought in. Bloodied and shocked, they flooded into Tyre's Najem hospital and two others.

"May God send a plague on you, Israel," a woman shouted in the crowded hallway, her face smeared with blood. "I want my brothers and my sister."

Women stood together against the walls, weeping and shouting at each other. "Oh God, my brother Ali is dead," a young woman howled.

Doctors worked wherever they could find space. On benches, tables and in operating theatres. Scores of the injured lay in hallways and corridors as wards overflowed.

Mariam Haidar, aged 10, her face ripped by shrapnel, said she saw her sister die as Israeli shells exploded. "I looked at my sister and I saw blood coming out of her mouth, then the building started collapsing on us," she said.

Each hospital in Tyre issued calls for blood donors and doctors. When the morgues overflowed, truck-

loads of corpses were sent up the coast road to Sidon — Tyre's biblical twin city.

"No," screamed a young woman in disbelief. "Ahlan is alive. I saw her walking. I saw her walking," she shouted, beating her head in anguish.

Fadi Jaber, aged 21, wept as he told how the first Israeli shell slammed into the refugees crowded into the United Nations base, and the peacekeepers told them to go into shelters.

"Then a second shell hit us, followed by three more at one-minute intervals," he said. "I heard people scream Allahu Akbar (God is Great). A woman fainting, as I reached over to check her head and her brains fell out into my hands."

"I saw a dead Unifil captain whose shoulder was blown off. His stomach was galled open and blood was spilling from it," Mr Jaber sobbed.

Latifeh Roumyyeh, aged 60, lay on a bed with her eyes bandaged, crying out the names of her children. "I don't know where my children and grandchildren are," she moaned. — Reuters.

## Shelling makes US think again

Ian Black Diplomatic Editor

PRESIDENT Clinton said yesterday he had told his secretary of state, Warren Christopher, to go to the Middle East, and be called on all parties to end the fighting in Lebanon with an immediate ceasefire.

United States officials said that Israel's shelling of a United Nations base was forcing them to consider new initiatives, after earlier having given the green light to the onslaught against Hizbullah guerrillas.

"Our objective is, as quickly as possible, to end the fighting," said Nicholas Burns, a state department spokesman.

World leaders gathering in Moscow for the weekend Group of Seven (G7) nuclear safety summit expressed dismay at yesterday's bloodshed.

France's president, Jacques Chirac, appealed to all parties to agree to an immediate ceasefire, as a statement said Paris was "stunned" by the killings. Russia's foreign minister, Yevgeny Primakov, said Moscow was "very worried".

John Major said: "I think this is a dreadful loss of life. What we have to look at now is how we can prevent a recurrence."

"Anyone can look back at the Hizbullah attacks into Israel and the Israeli attacks into Lebanon. But that is non-productive. What is productive is to make sure that it doesn't happen again."

Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, said the incident "demonstrated the urgent need for violence in the region to be brought to an end". But there was no condemnation of Israel. Pressure

mounted yesterday for the UN Security Council to call for a ceasefire in southern Lebanon, but American diplomats said the US would try to delay any action by the council.

British and Russian ambassadors said they had reservations about an Arab resolution which would condemn Israel but make no mention of attacks by Hizbullah.

The immediate result is likely to be increased international pressure on Israel to negotiate a ceasefire, though the prime minister, Shimon Peres, insisted the offensive would continue.

A UN statement said the secretary-general, Boutros Boutros-Ghali, "deplores and condemns... in the strongest possible terms" Israel's shelling of the UN post.

In the Arab world there was angry condemnation from Jordan, which has a peace treaty with Israel. King Hussein demanded an immediate halt to the bombardments.

Any solution is likely to be based on an informal 1993 agreement brokered by the Red Cross under which Hizbullah and Israel agreed to limit offensive action subject to certain conditions.

According to a document posted by Paris on Wednesday, the US and France would guarantee a truce under which Israel, Lebanon and Hizbullah would pledge not to hit civilian targets.

Syria would indicate its acceptance to the guarantors, but would not be directly responsible for enforcing the accord.

The US has tacitly backed Israel's attacks, which it saw as a legitimate response to Hizbullah and a way of strengthening Mr Peres's lead before next month's general election.

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The government is still a long way from convicting the man all America blames for the terror bombing a year ago, Ian Katz reports

# Squaring the circle in Oklahoma

**A** FRAMED article on a cluttered wall of Stephen Jones's office defends a man the Oklahoma lawyer considered "a victim of publicity and prejudice caused by media hysteria".

The man was Mr Jones's former employer and mentor Richard Nixon, but the statement could just as easily have come from the lawyer's defence of his most recent and most notorious client, Timothy McVeigh.

Although the 28-year-old Gulf war veteran and his former army buddy Terry Nichols, aged 40, may not stand trial for the Oklahoma City bombing for almost a year, Mr McVeigh was convicted in the court of American public opinion long ago.

Within weeks of America's worst-ever terrorist attack, a year ago today, a flurry of FBI leaks and "investigative" newspaper reports had persuaded most people that the police had found damning evidence against Mr McVeigh.

Long articles probed the origins of his hatred of federal government and depicted a gun-crazed loner, determined to seek revenge for the FBI's disastrous Waco raid exactly two years before the blast in Oklahoma City that killed 168.

In one national survey last February, 65 per cent of respondents said they believed Mr McVeigh was guilty. An even stronger belief in Oklahoma prompted the United States district judge Richard Matsch to move the trial to neighbouring Colorado.

But while there has been little sign of a shift in public attitudes to Mr McVeigh, who like Mr Nichols faces the death penalty if convicted, there are growing doubts about the strength of the case against him.

Despite interviewing more than 21,000 witnesses and analysing more than 100,000



Prime suspect... Timothy McVeigh, alleged to have carried out the Oklahoma bombing, is escorted from court soon after the attack a year ago

PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID LONGSTREATH

telephone calls during the biggest criminal investigation in the country's history, the investigators have only circumstantial evidence against the two defendants.

Prosecutors allege that Mr McVeigh and Mr Nichols built the huge bomb in a park near the latter's home in Herington, Kansas, and that Mr McVeigh detonated it in a truck outside the federal building the next day.

Several witnesses say they saw Mr McVeigh in central Oklahoma City on the morning of the explosion, but no one saw him park the vehicle outside the Murrah Building, or construct the bomb with Mr Nichols. Both men insist they are innocent.

In the absence of eyewitnesses or confessions, prosecutors will rely on scientific evidence and documents linking Mr McVeigh and Mr Nichols to materials similar to those used in the bomb, and on witnesses who say Mr McVeigh hired the truck used to transport it.

The government's star witness is Michael Fortier, a close friend of Mr McVeigh's, who is expected to testify that he and Mr McVeigh drove to Oklahoma City four months before the bombing to size up the Murrah Building as a possible target.

But Mr Jones points out that Mr Fortier is a self-confessed drug user who initially denied any knowledge of the

Oklahoma plot and later struck a deal with prosecutors under which he will avoid a long prison sentence.

Mr Jones points out that there are countless other weaknesses and inconsistencies in the government's case. For example, at least one person at Elliott's Body Shop in Junction City, Kansas, where Mr McVeigh is alleged to have hired the truck, initially gave a description that did not match Mr McVeigh.

Mr Jones also claims that Les McGowan, proprietor of the Dreamland Motel, where Mr McVeigh allegedly stayed before the bombing, said she had seen him with a Ryder truck on April 18, although the vehicle used in the bomb-

ing was not rented until the next day.

"When you stop and think about it there are a dozen gaps in the government's theory, but they have just ploughed ahead and tried to square the circle," Mr Jones said.

Perhaps the most glaring gap in the case is the FBI's failure to find the suspect who has been dubbed John Doe No 2, the man whom staff at Elliott's claimed was with Mr McVeigh when he hired the truck.

Investigators have questioned countless men fitting the description — they have even considered the possibility that he may have been Mr Nichols' 13-year-old son

Josh — but each time they have drawn an embarrassing blank.

Even more problematic for prosecutors could be witnesses who claim to have seen a third man, resembling neither Mr Nichols nor John Doe No 2, driving the Ryder truck in Oklahoma City on April 18.

Mr Jones claims such accounts add credibility to his theory that the bombing was carried out by rightwing extremists seeking revenge for the execution of the white supremacist Richard Snell on the day of the bombing.

Perhaps the most glaring gap in the case is the FBI's failure to find John Doe 2, the man staff at Elliott's claimed was with Mr McVeigh when he hired the truck

With prosecutors saying nothing about the details of their case, conspiracy theories have proliferated.

Mr Jones travelled to London earlier this year to look for links to Britain's far right. Meanwhile some relatives of victims of the bombing have become convinced that the attack on the Murrah Building was the outcome of a botched FBI sting operation.

"We believe there was a government informant involved and they expected the building to be blown up earlier," said Kathy Wilburn, whose grandchildren Chase and Colton Smith died in the blast.

## News in brief

### Vietnamese sent home

A GROUP of Vietnamese, many of whom had fled their country in fragile boats, were being returned to their homeland yesterday in a Malaysian navy transport ship, writes Nicholas Cumming-Bruce in Kuala Lumpur.

The 317 Vietnamese were forced back under an "orderly repatriation programme" aimed at accelerating the return of boat people judged to be economic migrants, not genuine refugees.

It is the first time Hanoi has allowed Vietnamese to be repatriated by ship, and is seen as a test for other countries in the region still holding boat people. But hundreds of police ensured the repatriation went without incident.

### Mutiny at Everest base camp

A FURIOUS row has broken out on Mount Everest between a South African expedition's British leader and its sponsor, which could prove life-threatening, writes David Beresford in Johannesburg.

Three of South Africa's top mountaineers have pulled out of the climb — staged by the Johannesburg Sunday Times to raise funds for President Nelson Mandela's Children's

Fund — accusing Ian Woodall of "militaristic" leadership.

The Sunday Times was reported yesterday to be threatening to pull out, too, after Mr Woodall and his father refused to let its news team into the base camp.

There are fears for the safety of Deshum Deyzel, a black woman and inexperienced climber whose involvement is seen as affirmative action.

### Mugabe harassment claim

AN INDEPENDENT member of the Zimbabwean parliament, Margaret Dango, said yesterday that she and her supporters had been harassed by police on the orders of President Robert

Mugabe's ruling party, writes Andrew Meldrum in Harare.

Three of her supporters were picked up on Wednesday, and at least one of them was beaten. Others received orders to turn themselves in.

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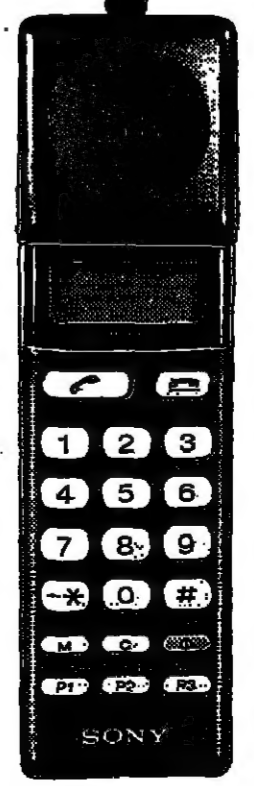
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War crimes, nothing less
Israel's reckless action will consume the peace

KILLING CIVILIANS is a barbaric act, whether at a UN base in south Lebanon or outside a Cairo hotel. Yesterday's attack by militant gunmen, in which 17 Greek tourists and an Egyptian were killed, was promptly labelled a massacre. The same word applies to the slaughter inflicted by Israeli shells on the Lebanese civilians — too many yet to count accurately — sheltering in the village of Qana. Yes, the gunmen intended to kill tourists (perhaps thinking they were Israelis rather than Greeks). And yes, the Israeli army did not intend to hit the base where the Lebanese had taken refuge, but may have been firing wildly, or in anger, after a Katyusha was apparently launched from nearby. But to undertake such reckless action, as part of a campaign which for the past week has been designed to terrorise and punish the civilian population of south Lebanon, is morally indistinguishable. Something like this was bound to happen sooner or later: indeed the killing of nine civilians earlier in the day in a rocket attack on Nabatiyeh (they should not have been there, said Shimon Peres) was bad enough. As in the cases of previous incidents, including the attack on an ambulance, it was both unjustified in military terms and a breach of international agreements on the protection of civilians in times of conflict. What happened hours later was different only in scale. Is there any reason not to regard these appalling incidents as plain crimes of war?

Initial response from Israel was on the grudging lines of foreign minister Ehud Barak's comment that "we are very sorry about any harm done to civilians." This will go down in the annals of inadequate response. But Israel should realise that this incident will do as much damage to their cause as the mortar shelling of the Sarajevo marketplace did to the Bosnian Serbs. Israel's allies can now longer maintain a complicit silence: the UN Secretary-General has condemned the Israeli offensive — in terms which he should have used days ago. Even the British Foreign Office now ventures to say that this is "gravely disturbing". And friends of Israel must understand that this is a disaster for the country as well for the region. If it leads to the sort of cool reflection which has been lacking from the whole Israeli campaign, that at least may save more lives. Mr Peres is a man of thought, who is certainly capable of grasping the moral dimension and of calculating the benefit of long-term progress against short-term gain. It is a tragedy that, whether entirely voluntarily or under pressure from the army, he has allowed the quest for electoral advantage — and the illusory aim of compelling Syria to give ground — to sweep aside all other consideration. The political atmosphere of the Middle East is notoriously changeable. Just weeks ago in Egypt the threat of militant violence was judged to be on the wane: the tourists were back and the capital was calm. Yet this had been achieved without any attempt to offer a political solution to the fundamentalist challenge. Thousands of militants were jailed and the Muslim Brotherhood was boxed out of last November's elections — but there has been no equivalent offensive against poverty and unemployment. In Israel, a moderately hopeful climate has been transformed for the worse in a very short space of time with the terrorists and Israel each compounding the damage inflicted by the other side. To become obsessed by Syria, and by every incoming Katyusha rocket, is to surrender to the opposition forces which Mr Peres seeks to defeat in the election. The war in Lebanon once again threatens to consume the peace. Mr Peres and his cabinet must pause, clear their vision, and call an end.

Sir Patrick's fancy footwork

Will the Unionists go along with such pragmatic politics?

COMPARED with the Canary Wharf and Aldwych explosions, Wednesday's IRA bomb in London was relatively minor. It killed no one and injured no one; it did relatively little physical damage. It had even been widely predicted, and others like it are expected soon. The really remarkable thing about the bomb is that it has caused so little political damage either. The Prime Minister of course condemned it, and so do we all. But politicians seem prepared to live with this level of bombings for the time being, as they showed by giving a second reading yesterday to legislation which is designed to bring Sinn Fein into the negotiating process in just over seven weeks' time. This is a remarkable cultural shift. It is less than three months since the end of the IRA ceasefire. That ceasefire was long regarded as the absolutely necessary pre-condition for political talks. Ministers spent months in 1994-95 refusing to make any kind of political move until the IRA said it was permanent. Then they got tired of waiting. But by that same token, no such moves would now be made either. In fact, the reverse is the case. The political process goes busily on, even though Wednesday's bomb was a noisy reminder that the ceasefire isn't there any more. IRA bombers are out there somewhere, ready to up the ante if they don't get what they want, yet all the signs are that this will not be necessary. The British Government seems to have committed itself to keep the peace process

on the rails even against a descent of limited IRA activity. This is the right course for the Government to take. But it is obviously a dangerous one. If it is to succeed, the Government must place as few preconditions upon entry to the June 10 talks as possible. Participation in the planned May elections is one of them, and Sinn Fein seems increasingly likely to accept that, judging by Gerry Adams's most recent remarks. A renewed ceasefire is clearly, at that stage, another. But the Government seems far less exacting these days about what that might mean in practice. Yesterday's second reading of the Northern Ireland (Entry to Negotiations Etc) Bill was conspicuous for Sir Patrick Mayhew's fancy footwork on the issue. Quizzed by Ian Paisley about whether he would accept a ceasefire only hours before talks were due to begin, Sir Patrick said that he would review the circumstances at the relevant time in their totality. In other words, yes. Increasingly, the real question is not whether the Government and Sinn Fein will talk to each other, difficult though that is, since the chances are that in the end they will. The real issue is whether the two large Unionist parties will join such a transparently pragmatic process. Mr Paisley, it is assumed, will not; David Trimble's Ulster Unionists are another matter. As the countdown to June 10 begins, Mr Trimble is becoming the key player. The hardest part of the peace process is only just beginning.

Taking the country for a ride

What's wrong with taxing anti-social company car perks?

IT SPEAKS volumes about Labour's determination not to upset middle-class voters that it has denied our report yesterday that it has plans, among other things, to tax company-car users more. Labour stressed that next month's transport policy document won't contain any proposals to increase company-car taxes. Clare Short, shadow transport secretary, added that there was "no remote connection" between Labour's transport document and the Guardian version (marked "First Draft"). We can't think why they're so embarrassed. The first draft contains sensible suggestions which all classes would agree with, including a 30 per cent reduction in urban traffic over 10 years (less than 3 per cent a year). Among the measures are speed limits of 50mph on some residential streets — a perk most middle-class residents would covet, as they would French-style picnic areas on motorways and flexible travel

on buses and trains. And why such a fuss over company cars? The Conservatives have been taxing them heavily for years without the middle classes taking to the streets. The reason is that it is difficult to justify not only why so many company cars unnecessarily enter city centres taking up valuable parking space, but also why they should receive enormous tax relief to do so. The Conservatives have milked this cow thoroughly. Labour's first draft was merely proposing to tie-up loose ends, like charging the full value of free petrol and penalising the fiddling of business mileage for tax purposes (costing the Revenue over £500 million a year). Labour could use money like this if Ms Short is to fulfil her admirable promise of "massively enhancing the quality of public transport". To do this without adding to public spending or upsetting the middle classes would be an impressive achievement indeed.



Letters to the Editor

The not so secret police

MAY I offer an alternative view to that expressed in your leader on police openness (Statistics that are hard to beat, April 18). In Humberstone, we are far from secretive and welcome rigorous scrutiny as part of our public accountability. We regularly publish priorities and policies, together with our record of achievement. Those priorities are based on extensive consultation with our public and all policies are underpinned by the highest ethical standards, particularly in respect of the recording of statistical information, even when that leads to an apparent deterioration in performance. Our policy, published in 1992, of concentrating on primary detections rather than manipulating crime figures through prison visit "write-offs" demonstrates that commitment to openness and integrity. As for your suggestion of compulsory press conferences, my deputy chief constable has answered media questions on the Audit Commission findings and I have just taken part in a live, one-hour, phone-in programme on local radio as part of the accountability process. Some of us have been doing, for some considerable time, that which you now recommend. Tony Leonard, Chief Constable, Humberstone Police, Queens Gardens, Hull HU1 3DJ.

TO CLAIM that the police service is "secretive in terms of its priorities, policies and record" is simply perverse. It is consistent with the microscope of public scrutiny and is, quite rightly, subject to a continuous examination of its performance by local police authorities, the media and the public. In terms of adapting to modern management techniques, the service has set about transforming its systems, procedures and methods to address the needs of today and the future. You accuse the service of having a military hierarchy but believe the hobby on the beat is un supervised: a contradiction, surely. Your suggestion that every force should hold a press conference to respond to league tables is facile. It may make the evening news, but otherwise it would be of little use. (Sp) Frank Greaney, St Anne Street Police Station, Liverpool L3 3EJ.

A rich crop of figures that belie Mr Lilley's poverty

RECENT statistics published in the General Household Survey show that large numbers of people do not own the consumer durables which Mr Lilley seems so proud of (Poverty, what poverty?, April 17). Forty-three per cent of families headed by someone who is economically inactive do not have a video recorder, 18 per cent do not have central heating and 65 per cent do not have a car. Surveys, such as the National Children's Home 1991 Poverty and Nutrition survey, have shown children going hungry because of lack of money. The diets of people in lower socio-economic classes are lower in vitamins and minerals. Estimates of people who cannot afford to heat their homes (people in "fuel poverty") run to about 6.5 to 8 million. Winter deaths, associated with cold temperatures and poorly-insulated homes, exceed summer deaths by around 30,000 annually. This is a particularly British problem not seen in a range of other countries with much milder winters. In addition, living in an inadequately-heated, damp house is associated with a range of health problems. The result is that the poor in this country have worse health than other groups, and that, over the years, their health relative to other groups has got worse. At a local level, the health of some groups has got worse in absolute terms. Until governments accept and act on the causes of poverty, we will be left pulling bodies out of the river rather than looking upstream to see why they are falling in. (Dr) Hugo Crombie, Research Manager, Royal Society of Health, 38 St George's Drive, London SW1V 4BE.

Lot in life

DENIS Vaughan, of the Lottery Promotion Company, continues to muddle matters and use figures he should know are misleading in his letter (April 12) concerning National Lottery running costs. Camelot is expected to retain 5 per cent of revenues. As for your suggestion of compulsory press conferences, my deputy chief constable has answered media questions on the Audit Commission findings and I have just taken part in a live, one-hour, phone-in programme on local radio as part of the accountability process. Some of us have been doing, for some considerable time, that which you now recommend. Tony Leonard, Chief Constable, Humberstone Police, Queens Gardens, Hull HU1 3DJ.



So you want to rule the world?

VICTORIA Brittain (Why the UN should turn to Mary Robinson, April 17) raises an important question: who is to be the next Secretary-General? There is another, equally critical, one. How is he or she to be chosen? Article 97 of the UN Charter says only that "the Secretary-General shall be appointed by the General Assembly upon the recommendation of the Security Council". The present system of secret lobbying is not immutable. The Government would do the world a service if it raised the issue in Parliament and canvassed the views of NGOs, which have consultative status with the UN. It's time to introduce the UN to democracy. Bruce Kent, Chair, Forum for UN Renewal, c/o 162 Holloway Road, London N7 8DE.

YOUR ill-considered attack on Boutros-Boutros Ghali (an all-too-typical slur on the work of one of the finest Secretaries-General who has ever served the UN). The United Nations Association has consistently praised his work over the last five years and tried to draw attention to the way his commendable efforts to resolve the conflicts in Somalia, Western Sahara, Angola and Rwanda and elsewhere have been undermined by member states and, among others, British press commentators. He has set a new agenda for the future of global peace and security, which is recognised by those who are better informed than your correspondent. Josh Arnold-Forster, c/o 25 Ragsby Street, London N4 3BJ.

Silent colonel

KATHY Evans, your correspondent in Libya (April 18), might like to put my questions to Colonel Gaddafi. Why won't he issue a crash report on the collision of the Libyan MiG that collided with the passenger plane on December 22, 1992 killing everyone on board, including my husband, Victor Przak? Why won't he grant an inquest into the death? Why has Libya never offered me any compensation for this tragedy and the painful lives my children and I now lead because of it? Why was my husband buried in Tripoli without my permission? Why was I forbidden to see the crash site when I visited the mass grave my husband is buried in? Why does Gaddafi always ignore every request I make? The list goes on. Felicity Przak, Rowditch Lane, London SW11.

Hot Lazarus

MARK LAWSON (Lukewarm Lazarus from Potter, April 15) seems to have invented a new form of TV criticism — that of reviewing a programme without having actually watched it. He suggests that the careers of most writers, including Dennis Potter's, follow a melancholy pattern in which "talent accrues and then reduces". We doubt this will be the viewers' final verdict on either Karaoke or Cold Lazarus. We did not expect to be congratulated on the unique collaboration between broadcasters that brought these works to television. We were hoping for a more considered appraisal of their transition from page to screen. Michael Wearing, Head of Drama Serials, BBC, Peterborough, Channel 4, c/o Centre House, 56 Wood Lane, London W12 7SE.

A Country Diary

NORTHUMBERLAND: We know that spring is really here when the swallows and martins arrive to nest under the eaves of our old house and in the stable roof. Having seen swallows and martins in March feeding on the banks of a river in Africa in their thousands, swooping over ponds and marshes, touching the water as they do in England, in high summer, makes their long migration journey seem truly remarkable. Such tiny, fragile bodies journeying across half the world against the elements. We have one house martin with a crooked leg which has returned to nest for five summers. I watch her feathering her nest and think of what distances and experiences have been faced by that wee bird. On our North-east coast, the real harbingers of spring are the terns; in this county we have all five species. Arctic, sandwich and common terns visit to breed in large numbers; the roseate and little terns are less common. The Farnes and Coquet Islands offer safe nesting sites with enough small fish and sand eels, their staple diet, to feed on. On our last visit to the Farnes, the warden pointed out a lesser-crested tern, which they have named Elsie. This species normally does not nest nearer than North Africa, but she has been coming over for 12 years with the sandwich terns, mates with them and raises hybrid chicks. "Small numbers of Arctic terns nest on mainland sites on this coast," said the warden. "But they suffer from predators. Stoats, weasels, rats, foxes and occasionally harassment from dogs." Arctic terns are brave birds, aggressive to anyone approaching their nests on the ground, but stand no chance against animals on the prowl for their eggs. Terns ringed on the Farnes have been reported on the edge of the icecap in the Antarctic and, occasionally, as far as Australia — so they actually commute between the two polar regions during the course of a single year. VERONICA HEATH

صوتك من الامم



Diary Matthew Norman

NEW Labour, according to yesterday's Guardian, plans to be beastly to company drivers, hiking taxes and seeking out tax-avoiders. The document seems to be silent, however, about any intention to punish the one class of company-car driver granted relief on journeys between the home and place of work... government ministers. When the Inland Revenue started sniffing round the question of why users of ministerial cars weren't paying like everyone else, the Government found a tough, no-nonsense pre-emptive strike: it simply changed the law, putting a clause into the Finance Bill exempting its own members. Excellent! Whether Labour ministers will repeat this nonsense and cost themselves a small fortune, we will have to wait and see. At present, only one opposition figure has direct personal experience of this tricky issue, Mr Tony Blair. The sworn foe of the company car has a courtesy ministerial Rover, and can count on Easton and Westminister all day without paying a bean.

PAUL Draper writes to congratulate Newham Council on its prompt dealing with a housing-benefit claim. Mr Draper has just learned that he has been granted £27.41 per week towards his rent for the period between March 19 and April 1 (1996).

THE Sun reports that John Major is depressed, so let us cheer him up with another reading from Major, Major, by his big brother Terry. Today's extract finds Terry in Germany doing his National Service. Shortly after an official report clears him after the ambulance he was looking after caught fire, Terry and several colleagues were sent to help an officer move house. "The officer's wife was a nice lady," he writes, "who gave us tea and cakes before we even started." Terry and the men's task was to assemble a large wardrobe. "Perhaps because of the cakes, perhaps because it was very stuffy inside the cupboard," Terry goes on, "I fell asleep and the others thought it would be a fine joke to leave me there when they left." It was in hitching a lift back to barracks that Terry committed "my second faux pas of the day", but that's another story.

At last, a female reader has come forward to answer to the plea for would-be wives (or "life partners" as he calls them in that funny PC way of his) for lonely Andrew Neil. It is my mother. "I'll go to Annabel's with him and time he likes," she says. "I think he's lovely." Patience only to refill the syringe. I now make the final appeal for potential spouses. Send in a brief application form (with accompanying photo), and you could win not only the trip to Annabel's (with free champagne and 1970s disco dancing thrown in) and the pair of Doc Martens, but a soulmate for life. For God's sake, there must be one of you with the bells to have a go?

Do you remember Toyah Wilcox as a punky adolescent singer? "I'm going to turn suburbia upside down," she used to scream. Toyah was the subject of a column in Mail, which asked how she met her husband, "Princess Michael of Kent introduced us at a charity event... Ah yes, those stirring dreams of youth."

THE historian David Irving, who disputes the central facts of the Holocaust, and who gets jolly bawdy when called a "Hitler apologist", is holding the party for his new book about Goebbels at his Mayfair flat tonight. The fact that today is the eve of Hitler's birthday is, he assures us, nothing more than one of those funny coincidences.

FROM GMTV, the breakfast show presented with such intelligence by Andrew Barnes came this yesterday: "And as our tribute to Yehudi Menuhin's 80th birthday, we'll be looking at some of the world's most glamorous grams." You couldn't make it up, square. You just couldn't make it up.



Message in a bottle of champagne

Commentary Peter Preston

IT WAS the clearest of blue mornings on the last day of the ball. The great plait where Champagne meets Picardy stretched away towards Reims, beyond the Gothic miracle of Laon cathedral. Birds sang. Coffee and croissants arrived on call. Everything signalled a heart-warming change in the seasons. Bang on. The battered hotel TV set, against all scientific odds, turned out to carry Sky News. And there, before the coffee cooled, was Norman Lamont slugging off the ERM.

Just as winter becomes spring in a trice, so the election season suddenly dawns after months of grey chuntering. The greater-created Lamont returns to its old haunts, chit-chatting blearily the best of admiration for Kenneth Clarke and Jimmy

Goldsmith in equal measure. The razor-billed Mawhinney bites Sus MacGregor on the nose. We're into six/nine/12 months of hysteria and synthetic wrath and their grinding headlines. We need our memories honed and Jemifer's ear-plugs dusted.

Because they're so stinky, the staples of political existence, you forget what general elections are like. But it is wise, as the next bell sounds, to look back in humility at the fight that went before, to brood over all the predictions that went wrong and the promises which drained into the gutters. Easy for 1992. Everybody, those who played, those who watched, those who polled, made klots of themselves. Norman, meanwhile, is getting into his stride. The Exchange Rate Mechanism is a once and continuing disaster. An effort to commensurate. That can be no question of re-joining it. Of course, under his gritty superintendence, some taxes had had to be raised. But now we were on course for sustained recovery, the wonders of Europe.

What was it though that the same Norman, this bird of infinite wisdom flushed with

electoral triumph, was telling the European Policy Forum in July, 1992? "The ERM is not an optional extra, an add-on to be jettisoned at the first hint of trouble. It is, and will remain, at the very centre of our macro-economic strategy." The chancellor-that-was rehearsed five so-called alternative policies - including "leaving the ERM and cutting interest rates" or "leaving the ERM and setting strict monetary targets". No good, he said, useless. "They are all illusory and destined to fail. They would not deliver low inflation."

Lamont, of course, was not alone at the time. He was one big parrot amongst many, squawking the Major mythos. "We are in the mechanism because that is where the Government judge we should be," sang the PM. "Nobody compelled us. We took a judgment. Business Thatcher and I took a judgment that it was the right thing to do."

You may hear such refrains revived over the coming year, though only at the basest level of spy-bargy (as in Mawhinney kicks Mother Teresa on Koss Horror). But there again, nobody may make much of it on stage where the NHS or Income-Tax-banding

seems to dominate. They certainly didn't last time. A little Austin Mitchell invective and Will Hutton analysis had to serve.

Yet nothing in 1992, or since, has been more crucial. If the Tories are dished (as ICM and majority of their own MPs in chorus believe) it's because Black Wednesday, that memorable September, made fools of them all and shredded belief so comprehensively it is simply impossible to restore. They were smug within six months of a victory by an issue the three front benches agreed on. The election itself was an irrelevance. The magnificence was irrelevant. Greater realities supervened.

That's the bit of the 96/97 deck which needs clearing early. For what would have happened four years ago if the

If the Tories are dished it's because Black Wednesday made fools of them all

pollsters had been right, if Labour had indeed won? Shadow Chancellor Smith, remember, was signed up for the ERM at 2.95 marks to the pound. Then Shadow Chancellor Brown echoed his leader's line. Even after the September debacle, Labour policy still insisted that "withdrawal from the mechanism has gravely damaged Britain's long-term economic and political interests". No

turning back. But Prime Minister Kinnock and Chancellor Smith would surely have found September happening a little early in 1992: like June. They were pledged publicly and privately to perish any thought of devaluation, to fight harder than Lamont but the tides of Soros would have surely washed them away, out of the system, before the last champagne cork had popped. And then where would we have been? With a Labour Government crippled and falling. With a Conservative Opposition regrouping gleefully for 13 more years in office.

It is sensible to dwell from the start on such things, because they determine the future in a way which no theoretician can. These are different times, of course. There will be a bit of a debate about Europe, but mostly on the coded circuit of Clarke and Fortillo. Labour's anxious winning team (shredding new surveys about Euro-splits in the ranks) will short-circuit any doubts amongst top comrades.

The question European finance ministers would most like answered - Will you get back in the ERM sharply as a mandatory preliminary to monetary union? - must surely echo into empty air.

Welcome back from the long migration, Norm. Perch on my cathedral spire whilst you peck a scrap of croissant. This second coming reminds me where we went first time round. Millions of angry words, thousands of furious charges and all of them - as it proved then and may prove again - beside the ultimate point, where the Grim Reaper of a greater reality lives.

S---, me and the great gender debate



Bel Littlejohn

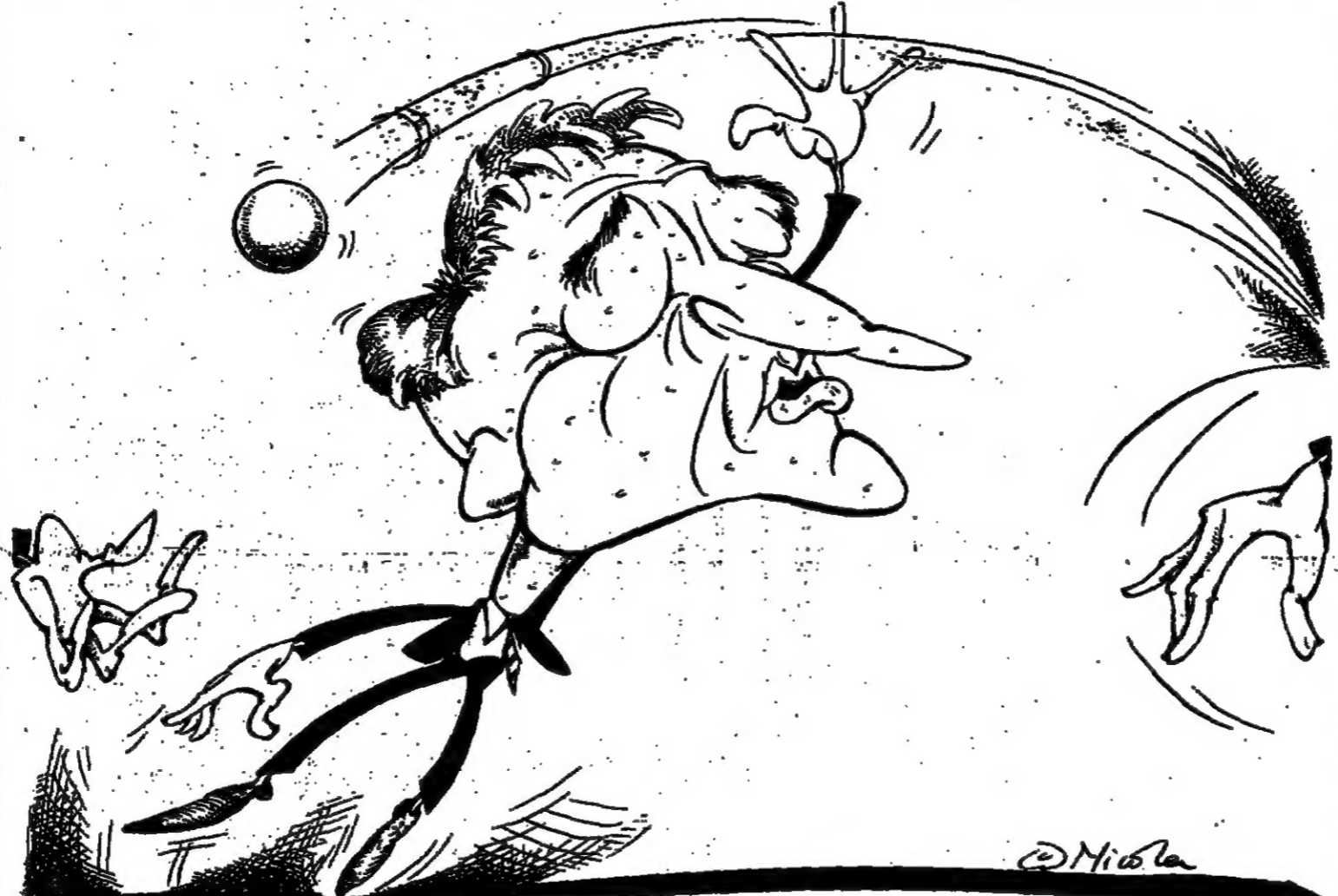
SORRY, guys. I really don't want to get into the great paternity debate that's been raging on this page between my good friends Sue and Bea. I'd bring back too many painful and distressing and sad and miserable memories. There, I know when I'm choked because I get carried away and then I use one belluva lot of "ands", and it's something I just can't stop. So I'm stopping now, okay? And just one more thing. I've been through the marriage and parenthood treadmill, my god I love it. My marriage to a man - let's just call him S--- - gave me a unique insight into the effect of the masculine role model on the nuclear family. And what I saw I didn't particularly like. Steve would come back from his office at the end of a day in which I'd been up to my neck in shopping and doing things around the house and catching up on reading and my cat, my god I love it. My marriage to a man - let's just call him S--- - gave me a unique insight into the effect of the masculine role model on the nuclear family. And what I saw I didn't particularly like. Steve would come back from his office at the end of a day in which I'd been up to my neck in shopping and doing things around the house and catching up on reading and my cat, my god I love it.

rather than facing up to any issue. Or how he pigeon-holed me as a woman by insisting on letting me have the "final say" on home decoration. But let's not drag S--- into it. I'm much happier than him these days, however much he tries to convince our friends otherwise. And the last thing I want to do is add to his general bitterness by petting him in print, poor lamb.

So let's get right away from the subject of my marriage. Let's broaden the issue to a fuller discussion of the new historic settlement between genders and generations and a larger consideration of the final outcome of the bitter struggle by men to purge women from the public domain and to keep them in a confined space. If I can speak personally for a moment, Steve was never comfortable with the idea of a wife who believed in her right to exercise her own judgment. For instance, whenever I felt like carving out a life of my own in Morocco, say, or Venice, with a friend or friends, Steve would treat my quest for freedom as a crime. They can't I come too?" he would ask, as though I was his stone-age chieftain, forever sworn to M'Lud's beck and call.

ON the larger issue of children, I always resented the male stereotype of "father" that Steve brought to his self-appointed role. "Can't you sometimes just be a parent, not a father?" I once asked when I saw him kicking a ball back to our daughter Mo. I felt exasperated that a guy who viewed himself as in some way "enlightened" should attempt to force his wholly masculine world-view symbolised by the football - on to our daughter. It was as if in some way he wanted her to be a man, the mirror-image of himself.

Being the male of the species, he refused to take issue with me. Instead, he was with me to wash the dishes and scrape the remains of our vegetarian lasagne off the baking tray. But would he do it? Would he be back in the end, I couldn't take life with such an unreconstructed sexist any more, so I moved out the next day. Or rather I had the locking changed, and he moved out. He's now married to a real-life "little lady" who busies her little self running a public company. So that's why Bel's not going to follow Sue and Bea. Too much hurt. Too much pain. The healing process ain't over yet. And in fairness to my ex, I don't want to go public with what a deep-seated misogynistic slob he was. No, I don't want to personalise what should be a serious wide-ranging socio-political debate by revealing intensely private details of our marriage. Like the way he'd bid "You must do what you think best, but if you want my advice I'd be only too happy to give it" all the time,



Paddy in the middle

Tony Blair claims to lead a party of the centre; so why, demands Paddy Ashdown, is he so keen on fuzzy policies - and so quick to silence any talk of tax?

FOR politicians, Easter seems a good time of the year for travelling - both actually and metaphorically. Tony Blair went to the United States, and, as with Singapore, used a foreign trip to push his party at home further down the road he wants to lead it. I have been on holiday in France, where I read Roy Jenkins's book on Gladstone, and thought about the similarities between today and the turbulent 1890s, when politics reshaped itself into a modern form. Only John Major, true to his style, has stayed rooted to the spot in the face of the ongoing catastrophe for his party. But even he is now being urged by his tormentors to take the train further down the branch line to nowhere, re-opened by the right after last week's byelection disaster. They have probably already bought his ticket and are preparing to bundle him, uncomplainingly, into the sealed carriage, into the sealed carriage, into the sealed carriage for him, just as they have done so many times before. For the Liberal Democrats, my trip to France was no more than just that. We will not be indulging in the present craze for political wall-to-wall. We are staying just about where we are and where we have always been. We don't have to shift our positions because they have become embarrassing. Or abandon our beliefs because they have become irrelevant. Quite the opposite, since they dare not say anything about tax, they cannot say anything about anything. If Labour's aim is really to build a new bond of trust on tax with the people, then last week was not a particularly good start. The Liberal Democrats are not a high-tax party. We oppose punitive rates of taxation. But we will be an honest tax party. We are determined to be clear about what we want and how we pay for it - even if that means, for instance, having to put a penny on income tax for education. The received wisdom is that this will damage us. But I have a hunch that people want the truth about tax more than they want reassuring promises they can't believe in. I am much less happy, however, about the assumption which is now, it seems, shared by Labour and Tory that the policies of the middle class are the same as the policies of the middle class. To start with, Liberal Democrats reject the policies of class, whether it's middle, upper or working. One of the most corrosive legacies of Thatcherism was the price it encouraged people to pay in order to pursue middle-class dreams, just when she was in the process of destroying them. It is sad to see some people struggling through the same torture in the name of New Labour.

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But the real point is this. The Thatcher-Major legacy is a painful one for people on middle incomes, but we will not solve the problems of the middle class if we try to solve them alone. The middle class also have a stake in tackling the exclusion, desolation and hopelessness of Britain's terrifying underclass. If the next government comes to power because it has newly captured middle-class votes at the price

of continuing to ignore Britain's poor and dispossessed, then "stakeholderism" is indeed a meaningless slogan. You do not have to be on the left to understand that allowing the chain of poverty to widen, and the desolation of our lost communities to deepen, will lead to increased crime and instability and, eventually, to the irreparable destruction of the fabric of our society - from which, incidentally, it is the "middle class" who will suffer most. If the parties of progress become so obsessed with the politics of the middle class that the dispossessed cannot even look to us for hope, then to whom can they look? And to whom will they look next? We are, of course, back to tax. Redistributing wealth is not, of itself, the solution. But redistributing opportunities is, and that cannot be done without financial implications. To dodge that, or to seek to hide it, is to abandon either the hope of rescuing Britain's underclass, or the pretence of honesty - or both.

Any new partnership between politicians and voters, will need firmer foundations than that, if it is to succeed. But if Tony Blair's party is struggling towards a new shape because he wills it, John Major's is doing the same even though he wills it not to.

What this illustrates is perhaps the most interesting fact about British politics today. That the two old parties can no longer contain the opposing forces now at war within them. The courageous migrations of Emma Nicholson and Alan Howarth speak as eloquently for this in the Tory Party as the sullen but thunderous silence of the left waiting their time within Labour. I do not know if there will be more Tory migrations be-

URGENT APPEAL CRISIS IN LEBANON. Within minutes of the shelling of the U.N. base near Tyre in Southern Lebanon, the Red Cross was on the spot providing vital medical aid to the injured. The Red Cross is currently the only international aid agency providing assistance throughout Southern Lebanon. We are distributing supplies to medical centres and clinics. We are giving mattresses, blankets and vital food aid to people who have left everything behind. And we are deploying 32 ambulances and 25 mobile Red Cross clinics to the areas of greatest need. Now we need your help to ensure aid continues to reach those who need it desperately. Please give as much as you can today. Your donation can save lives. Thank you. Please call now with your credit card donation. 0171 245 1000. Or you can send a cheque or postal order with the coupon below. British Red Cross. Caring for people in crisis. I enclose a cheque/postal order (payable to British Red Cross) for £250 £50 £30 £20 Other £. Or please debit my Visa/Mastercard/Amex/Discover/Club/Switch Card. No. [ ] Expire Date. Today's date. Signature. Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms. Address. Postcode. Tel. Now please send this coupon with your donation, to: THE CRISIS IN LEBANON APPEAL, BRITISH RED CROSS, ROOM 514, PRESTON, LONDON SW1V 7ER. A donation of £10 or more is worth a third as much again through GIN as we can claim back for you. Please tick the box if you do not wish to receive further information from the Red Cross. Tick the box if you would like a receipt.

Berkely Mather

A sense of adventure

BERKELEY Mather, who has died aged 67, was a regular soldier who took to writing just as television was catching on, and although he had had some stories published in magazines, it was in the new medium that he made his name. Encouraged by Donald Wilson, BBC Television's script supremo, to think in terms of half-hour series — then the common currency of television fiction — Mather came up with a succession of popular low-life police formats of which Tales From Soho (1956) is probably the best-remembered. He also wrote single plays, including Mid-Level, the first true television play on ITV, two days after his name-service was launched in September, 1955. It was a racy political thriller set in Hong Kong, which represented another genre at which Mather was adept: the exotic, far-flung adventure story. As he was still a serving officer he used a nom de plume constructed, characteristically, from a tradesman's sign he had spotted in India. For a Berkeley Mather, the name was his final "e". His real name was John Evan Weston-Davies. Born in Wales, he was brought up in Australia after his parents migrated when he was a boy. After grammar school and military service, he enrolled as a medical student at Sydney University but dropped out after a year and, in conscious or unconscious emulation of many a John Buchan or Dennis Wheatley hero, worked his way around the world as deckhand on a tramp steamer. He arrived in Britain in the depths of the slump. Unable to find work, he enlisted in the Royal Horse Artillery, later transferring to the Indian Army. He was a staff-sergeant

when war broke out and a lieutenant-colonel and veteran of campaigns in Persia, Iraq and Burma by the time it ended. After Indian independence, he was offered a British army regular commission. He was an acting brigadier in Cyprus when in 1953 he decided to retire, partly because he was already earning more from writing than the army paid him, more urgently because his first novel, The Achilles Affair, was set in Cyprus during the Eoka troubles which were still rumbling on. The authorities might not have been pleased were the author revealed as a serving local commander. He settled with his wife Kay and their two sons in a large Sussex house. Mather was now 50, a stocky, forthright, amusing man still sporting the stage villain's moustache which had earned him his army nickname of "Jasper". Donald Wilson remembers his generosity. When Wilson happened to say that he planned to take his family touring in Spain, Mather insisted that they borrow his caravan and tow-car. "It was a sort of Mercedes battle-venture with this great trailer hitched on behind. He gave me half an hour's instruction on how to handle it, and off we went." In 1963 Berkely Mather was caught in a fad for Anglo-American co-production. The idea was that American money would allow more expensive stars and locations for British projects. In return, the American partners could impose the trusty dramatic conventions they believed their audience demanded. Mather's script for Associated-Rediffusion and NBC, To Buy a Caesar, was about a politician facing the exposure of an old disgrace. Jack Hawkins was paid an astronomical fee for that time to play the part but the result was a turkey. "With its fuzzy dorking picture, strange bursts of music and inevitable courtroom scenes," I'm afraid I wrote in the Sunday Telegraph, "the resemblance to a bad old English movie was amazing. You kept expecting Clive Brook, Pat Roc or even Jack Hawkins to make an appearance." Luckily, Mather was by now involved in good, new English movies. He re-wrote the screenplay of the first James Bond film, Dr No, and is credited with introducing the element of self-parody which became one of the canon's hallmarks, though it is worth pointing out that the three on which he worked — the others were Goldfinger and From Russia with Love — were sober and realistic by comparison with the daft excesses of later titles. His novels mattered most to Mather. He published 15 and served a term as chairman of the Crime Writers Association. He is mourned not only for himself but for the tradition of the atmospheric adventure story which, along with Victor Canning, Gavin Lyall, Lionel Davidson, Kenneth Royce and others, he helped maintain. They had all been in strange places in the war and seen things they could draw on. Royce explains, "When they ran out, you would set off travelling again to find more. Nowadays that's all gone. You sit at home, watch TV and write about serial murder."

Philip Purser  
Lieutenant Colonel John Evan Weston-Davies (Berkely Mather), writer and soldier, born February 25, 1902; died April 7, 1969



Berkely Mather... writing himself out of the army

Richard Hill

Life study of Sudan

IN 1927 Richard Hill, who has died aged 96, joined the Sudan civil service and was posted to the Sudan government railways. It was the beginning of a life dedicated to the study of that country, which produced a string of books, took him to Africa and north America as a lecturer and resulted in Durham University's Sudanese archive, a collection of unique distinction and an indispensable resource on the history of the modern Sudan. His book, A Bibliography of The Sudan was published in 1939, and remains a reference work to this day. And in 1946 he retired from the railways and became a senior history lecturer at the then University College of Durham. From 1949 until his 1956 retirement he was a lecturer in modern Near Eastern history at Durham. In 1951 he published another key reference work, A Biographical Dictionary of Anglo-Egyptian Sudan. It gathered nearly 2,000 lives of people connected with the country from early times to 1948, but its real value lay in its copious information about Sudanese, Egyptians and Europeans of the 19th and early 20th centuries. Eight years later came Egypt and The Sudan 1820-1881. It was the first attempt by a British historian to present an independent and balanced view of Egyptian rule in the Sudan, and he learned Ottoman Turkish to research in the Cairo archives. In 1965, just before leaving the university, he published a monograph, Sudan Transport, drawing on his own railway experience, and Slatin Pasha, a biography of a colourful Austrian who served successive Sudanese regimes from 1878 to 1914. Crucially, it was in those

Durham years that he set about the collection of papers of retired Sudan officials and others which developed into the Archive. Between 1966 and 1969 he taught at the University of California, Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, and Nigeria's Ahmadu Bello University. More books followed. These included, in 1970, On The Frontiers of Islam, two manuscripts concerning the Sudan under Turco-Egyptian rule from 1822-1843 and, in 1984, The Sudan Memoirs of Carl Christian Giegler Pasha, 1875-1883, published under the auspices of the British Academy in 1984. For his final book, published last year, in collaboration with his friend, Peter Hogg, he turned to the Sudanese themselves. A Black Corps d'Elite tells the story of a Sudanese conscript battalion sent by the Viceroy of Egypt to take part in Napoleon III's Mexican adventure. In these books he shows a warm, human sympathy arising from his own religious convictions. Richard Hill and his wife, Judith, are survived by their family of four daughters. Unassuming and courteous he will be remembered with affection and respect by friends of many nationalities. In the year of his 80th birthday some of them contributed to Modernisation In The Sudan, essays in his honour edited by M W Daly. The Republic of the Sudan awarded him its Gold Medal of Science, Letters and Arts in 1980, and the University of Durham conferred an honorary Doctorate of Letters on him in 1982.

Peter Hogg  
Richard Leslie Hill, historian, born March 21 1901; died February 18, 1996

Bela Szigeti

Humane and perceptive physicist

FROM the late 1940s to the 1960s, Bela Szigeti, one of the quiet old-fashioned gentlemen of theoretical physics, challenged the assumptions of solid state physicists. Szigeti who has died aged 88 showed the widely-accepted belief that the polarisation of crystals was an electric field effect was fundamentally wrong. This work, carried out initially at Bristol University under the umbrella of — if not directly with — the Nobel laureate Cecil Powell, and then at Liverpool University with Herbert Fröhlich, emerged in the textbooks as the "Szigeti relations". Now universally accepted, they link the elastic, vibrational and dielectric characteristics of all solid ionic crystals and helped to underpin the platform on which later waves of research into solid state physics were built. In particular, they point to the crucial importance of the patterns of phonon propagation and ionic deformation within crystals. Although Walter Fröhlich was noted to be "difficult", Bela Szigeti worked well with him and unmasked the twisting (torsional) deformations that occur during vibrational (phonon) propagation in long chain molecules. His set up vibrations in research. For example they are relevant to understanding the role of phonon propagation along molecular chains that create such unexpected phenomena as superconductors. Professor Szigeti's associates at Reading University, where he worked

from 1963 until his retirement in 1977, emphasise that the crucial element of Szigeti's theoretical work was his clear and very early recognition that the electronic behaviour of a crystal lattice results from the deformation of ions by forces from their neighbouring ions. This observation, which he then confirmed experimentally, distinguishes him as an unusually perceptive physicist. Working with Roy Leigh at Reading, he showed that prevailing theories of infrared absorption in crystals, thought to be dependent on the presence of an electronic charge arising from the introduction of an element from an unrelated part of the periodic table, was without foundation. Szigeti went on to develop an elegant theory which explains this phenomenon. However, he was a scientist who sought neither personal aggrandisement nor establishment honours. He worked slowly, quietly, with great precision of thought and elegant mathematics, and published sparingly. Although always questioning received assumptions and seeking deep understanding, he sought to avoid controversy. In his courtesy Szigeti had much in common with his fellow physicist and countryman Eugene Wigner. However, unlike Wigner, Leo Szilard and others in the cluster of brilliant Hungarian physicists who fled from the Nazis to achieve public fame in the Anglo-American wartime nuclear weapon programme Szigeti was not Jewish, nor was he a nuclear physicist.

From his schooldays he was

fascinated by mathematics and physics but his first degree was in physical chemistry, a subject in which he was concerned with new electronic theories but not directly with the "new" heavy elements, then fascinating nuclear chemists and physicists. As a practising Catholic with a breadth of cultural as well as scientific education, he was a man whose ideals, conscience and inclinations might, in any case, have led him to avoid involvement with nuclear weapons. Born the grandson of an old land-owning family in England, Szigeti worked at St Bartholomew's Hospital and then at Cambridge investigating possible uses of spectroscopy in clinical medicine. In 1941, along with many engineers and scientists, he was swept into war production. He seldom spoke of this wartime period in England or of his last years in Hungary. In 1945, with spectroscopy as the bridge carrying him into theoretical physics, he joined the HH Wills Physics Laboratory at Bristol and his career as a scientist of stature began to evolve. Within three years he was invited to join Fröhlich at Liverpool where he set his stamp on the textbooks. Yet he never pushed for promotion. In 1965 he joined Reading University as lecturer, although he then progressed quickly to become reader then professor in theoretical physics. He was distinguished by his great care, by his gentle humanity and by his profound quality of mind.

Anthony Tucker  
Bela Szigeti, theoretical physicist, born August 2, 1912; died March 17, 1996

in music and the arts, which he shared with his wife Lois who died prematurely in 1965. After graduating at Budapest, Szigeti went to Zurich where, in 1938, he gained his doctorate in physical chemistry. He went back to Hungary, but early in 1939, he came to England — essentially if not formally as a refugee scholar. His brother, who remained in Hungary, was killed during the war. During his first two years in England, Szigeti worked at St Bartholomew's Hospital and then at Cambridge investigating possible uses of spectroscopy in clinical medicine. In 1941, along with many engineers and scientists, he was swept into war production. He seldom spoke of this wartime period in England or of his last years in Hungary. In 1945, with spectroscopy as the bridge carrying him into theoretical physics, he joined the HH Wills Physics Laboratory at Bristol and his career as a scientist of stature began to evolve. Within three years he was invited to join Fröhlich at Liverpool where he set his stamp on the textbooks. Yet he never pushed for promotion. In 1965 he joined Reading University as lecturer, although he then progressed quickly to become reader then professor in theoretical physics. He was distinguished by his great care, by his gentle humanity and by his profound quality of mind.

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Bela Szigeti, theoretical physicist, born August 2, 1912; died March 17, 1996

Rachel Labouchere

View from the Ironbridge

RACHEL Labouchere, who has died aged 87, supported the Ironbridge Gorge Museum from its inception and later served as president for 16 years. As a descendant of Abraham Darby, the Quaker ironmaster who in 1709 first smelted iron ore with coke and thus helped precipitate the industrial revolution, she felt intimately connected to Shropshire and to its industrial past. Rachel Hamilton-Russell was an only child born into a wealthy Shropshire family related not only to the Darbys of Coalbrookdale but fellow local industrialists the Wolryche Whitmores. Rachel Labouchere received no formal education and plans to study at Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, were never realised. She worked at the Admiralty during the war where she met her husband, George Labouchere. They married in 1943 and after the war her husband joined the foreign office. Rachel accompanied him on his overseas postings on the understanding that after his retirement they would return to her native Shropshire. In 1963 they moved into Dudmaston which she inherited from her uncle. There she became immersed in local and family history. She was instrumental in buying Reshall, an early Darby family home. It was given to the Ironbridge Gorge Museum, endowed by her, restored and furnished in

Birthdays

Sue Alexander, professor of law, University of Wales, 34; William Baillie, painter, 73; Sue Barker, tennis player, sports commentator, 40; Harold (Dickie) Bird, Test umpire, 63; Antonio Carluccio, restaurateur, 58; Adrian Cole, director-general, Building Societies Association, 42; Tim Curry, actor, 50; Sir Cyril Cingari, educationist, 83; Trevor Francis, football manager, 42; Prof Sir John Horlock, former vice-chancellor, Open University, 58; Margo MacDonald, Scottish Nationalist, broadcaster, 52; Dudley Moore, actor, pianist, 61; Murray Perahia, pianist, 45; Richard Phelps, pentathlete, 35; Paloma Picasso, designer, 47; Alan Price, rock singer, bandleader, 54; Mick Ronin, chef de cuisine, 55; Wilf Stevenson, director, British Film Institute, 49; Ruby Wax, comedienne, 43.

Death Notices

FRWIS, Sadly on 6th April 1996 in Prague, Czechoslovakia, John of Tottenham, a loving husband and father, died. He was 78. A death loved partner to Kath, who predeceased him and brother-in-law to Roger. Funeral Service on Monday, 22nd April where family and friends are kindly invited to meet at St. Ann's Church, Tottenham, 2.30pm. No flowers by his own request. For further information contact Mrs. J. Ann 0171 771645.

In Memoriam

METHERINGTON, Christina W, died 19.4.96. John W. Metherrington died 23.4.96.

Memorial Services

WEDGLEY, David, an opening of a plaque in memory of Dr. David Wedgley will take place at 10.30am on Monday, 22nd April at St. Ann's Church, Tottenham, 2.30pm. No flowers by his own request. For further information contact Mrs. J. Ann 0171 771645.

Jackdaw



EVERY PERSON you meet is an investment in your future. Whether it's a factory tour, a trade show or country fair, meeting the public face-to-face is important not only to the person you're meeting, but also to those watching your interaction — perhaps via television. Both live and pre-recorded, you must appear to be the kind of person the people want to see: confident, strong and positive. Not everyone is born with a love for meeting new people. Every politician without this love should work hard at developing this important communications technique. With

the proper preparation and follow-up, face-to-face encounters can be enjoyable and immensely profitable. A successful head-on style should be the goal of every politician. ● Have A Game Plan... Prepare a message that you want your audience to retain. Remember that to retain a message, an audience must believe it to be relevant to them, and they must hear it more than once. In fact, the advertising world believes a message must be received seven times before an audience will remember it... ● Smile... Some believe you can say practically anything at all, as long as you smile. However, it must be the right smile... If smile is completely inappropriate — such as a discussion of layoffs — simply raise the muscles in your face... This will give you the appearance of being open to communication and warm in demeanour. ● Hand contact. Shaking hands is an art. With a handshake, you touch your audience physically for the first time. This tactile presenta-

tion will be remembered. Make sure your handshake is not remembered for being wet, limp, or insincere. First, open your hand as wide as it will go. Then, when you make contact with the shakee, put your hand into theirs as far as possible. This should bring you into web-to-web contact with the other person. Close your hand firmly, but don't squeeze too tightly, and shake twice while making eye contact. ● Posture. Upon entering the room, pause in the doorway and, standing tall and erect, look out at the people. Don't tilt your head to either side; keep both your head and shoulders in a neutral position. Think about how much you're going to enjoy talking with everyone. Appear strong, confident and positive. When standing still, take a stance with your feet about shoulder-width apart for good balance and grounding. Be comfortable with your hands; practice gestures until you are satisfied with them. From Face to Face Campaigning: Hour to Work a Room, by

Political Adviser Laura Peck in the April edition of Campaigns & Elections. These notes should be kept close to hand during any election, and taken to any situation where an encounter with a politician is likely. Many thanks to Dan Clifton. JFKaos THE execution of JFK created Chaos Theory. Before that, there was Chaos, but no Theory. The President's Head Had Never Exploded. Lincoln was shot in the head, but posed serenely in his death photo (as he did in his life photos). "Now he belongs to the ages." But there were no soothing words at the death of JFK — just hysteria. The President's Plane Is Missing was a small potatoes Nuclear Threat book, then movie, of the Kennedy administration. But the president's brain is missing because the subsequent cry, and 19 months later, Harvey Cox began the God is dead movement at Harvard Divinity school. If the President had no brain, God had no

existence. And The Beatles arrived, to prove that the adults no longer ruled the world. Children became adults, the Prez had no brain, LBJ (the new Leader) pulled the ears of his dogs on TV. The Dharma was lost, Chaos ruled. Sparrow, "the mastermind behind the East Village militia" (sic) The Future Of The Book. Read it again, carefully, and tell me if any of his insights are missing from this edited version: Books were invented in 1486 by a guy named Aldo In Venice. Things that looked a lot like books before that must have been something else. People like to turn pages. Speech and writing use words. Paper costs money, so books will be irrelevant in 25 years. But they are better than digital appliances. You

can stand on a book, not a laptop. Some guy at Nick's Media Lab wants to bind paper-thin electronic screens into the shape of a book and download words on to them. There is not yet a way to do this, but "this is the likely future of books". Books with small press runs reach fewer people than books with big press runs. Like trade books, every Web site on Earth will find an audience. "Some of us in research are working really hard to make them feel good and be readable — something you can happily curl up with or take to the loo." My books do this already. Nick, you need a rest. Ask the nice people at Wired for some time off. Mike Gordon brings some clarity to the great Nature of Reading debate in his letter to Wired. Cybermarxists AS FOR the post-marxists, they have given up on the search for the Holy Grail of the classless society in the real world and found it instead in the heaven of virtual reality. Gates has opened up for them. To put it another way, the new technology has made fantasy fact. You can now live in that fantasy world, because it is a world that you create in the home, alone. And, therefore, in a world of loneliness, you are never alone. In a world of poverty, you are never poor. In a world of class conflict, you are classless. Post-marxism is the ideology of cyberspace. From an interview with A. Sivanandan, founding editor of

the Journal Race & Class. Thanks to Danny Kelly. No solutions ● I LOVE this summer's long, clingy button-through dresses, but I worry about my rather well-rounded hips. What's the solution? ● I want to buy a pretty cotton bikini with enough Lycra in it to stop it becoming baggy around the bottom when I wet. Where should I look? ● My first summer purchase is always a new handbag. I tend to carry the same one every day so I need to have something that works with almost everything. Can you help? Some examples of the sort of questions Vogue's style counsel has to put up with. Jackdaw wants jewels. E-mail jackdaw@guardian.co.uk; fax 0171-713 4366; Jackdaw, The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER. Dan Glaister

parachute  
German  
Woolwich  
Co-op jibs

صكنا من الامم

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer  
Telephone: 0171-239-9610  
Fax: 0171-833-4456

# Finance Guardian

## German cut boosts pound

Larry Elliott  
Economics Editor

**T**HE Bundesbank yesterday enhanced its reputation for springing surprises on the financial markets when it cut interest rates to record low in an attempt to revive the recession-hit German economy.

Central banks in Denmark, Belgium and the Netherlands swiftly followed the announcement in Frankfurt and last night the managing director of the International Monetary Fund, Michel Camdessus, urged the French government to follow suit.

Analysts said the decision by the Bundesbank to shave half a point off the discount and Lombard rates, to 2.5 per cent and 4.5 per cent, would boost the German economy by weakening the over-valued German mark.

They added that the move should lead to a stronger pound, cutting the costs of UK imports and boosting the chances of the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, trimming base rates in the summer.

Latest figures from the

### Britain's manufacturers left behind by buoyant service sector



Office for National Statistics yesterday showed the annual inflation rate unchanged at 2.7 per cent last month, with dearer food, leisure goods and house prices offset by cheaper petrol.

The underlying inflation rate — excluding mortgages — also remained steady last month at 2.9 per cent, slightly above the Government's target of 2.5 per cent by the end

**T**HE gulf between the UK's buoyant service sector and its hard-pressed manufacturers widened sharply in the first three months of 1996, writes Larry Elliott.

According to the British Chambers of Commerce, while factories suffered from an overhang of unsold goods and weakening export markets, rising consumer demand boosted orders, investment and job prospects in services.

The BCC predicted that manufacturing would be hauled out of the doldrums once stronger high street

demand had helped firms to clear their stockpiles, adding that there was no need for fresh reductions in interest rates.

Its quarterly survey of more than 7,500 companies found that the service sector enjoyed its best quarter for two years, with cash flow improving and business confidence stronger.

Firmer demand was particularly evident in retailing and financial services.

shown in the latest official government data.

The BCC said the problems had been concentrated among larger firms, which were seeing sales and orders decline.

"Weak manufacturing growth may be a result of an over-estimation of demand in previous quarters, with retailers and those manufacturers higher up in the supply chain reducing their orders as they deplete excessive stocks acquired previously," said the BCC.

target for the year. The Bundesbank "assumes that the current strong money-supply expansion will slow down in the near future," the central bank said in a statement.

Stronger growth would enhance Mr Walgel's efforts to curb the German budget deficit and keep the country on track for European monetary union in 1999.

Mr Camdessus called the Bundesbank cut in interest rates "good news" and "a measure which we considered as particularly desirable in view of the sluggish economic developments in Germany and France."

## Notebook Clarke works on reinforcing image



Edited by Patrick Donovan

**I**T'S hardly surprising that Chancellor Kenneth Clarke is making much of his determination to head off the Tory Right's demands for a tax-cutting bonanza in advance of the next election.

By squaring up to the likes of John Redwood, he is clearly attempting to reinforce an image as a responsible guardian of the Treasury purse-strings, a man who is not prepared to jeopardise public finances for short-term political gain.

The reality, however, is that the Chancellor has no choice but to dampen down expectation of tax cuts because of the continued increase in government borrowing.

Yesterday, the grim outlook became even clearer as the Government announced a total borrowing requirement for 1995-96 of £32.2 billion. This was £2.2 billion more than the Chancellor predicted for the FSB in the November Budget.

On fundamentals, the Bundesbank would easily have got away with a quarter point cut. And this would have far less a destabilising effect on the market.

Nevertheless, the decision to go for a half-point cut suggests that the Bundesbank wants to be seen to be back in the driving seat. It needs to bolster its credibility at a time when unemployment has accelerated past 4 million and forecast economic growth is virtually at a standstill.

And it is surely no coincidence that it is making this move at such a pivotal time in both the country's wage negotiation round and the current talks on making drastic public sector budget cuts.

**C**HIE figures IF SHARE prices are any measure of management success, then Ann Iverson must be a phenomenal performer. Taking over the helm of the Laura Ashley frock and fabric firm just seven months ago, she was nudging 60p. Yesterday, they touched a nine-year high at 177p, as the company announced that last year's £30.6 million loss has been turned around to a £10.3 million profit.

This does not mean there has been a buying boom for Laura Ashley frocks — turnover is up by just 7 per cent. The bounceback reflects the way Ms Iverson has been slashing away at the corporate fat which has for so long made this such a badly-managed company.

But the really interesting prospect are the hints she drops for relocating production. The subtext for this is that Laura Ashley, as in all other British retailers, can boost margins by contracting out manufacturing to cheaper overseas producers. Main target here would seem to be the home furnishings operations which makes 90 per cent of its own products.

## Woolwich chief attacked over Robinson affair

Teresa Hunter and Cliff Jones

**T**HE Woolwich Building Society was accused at a stormy annual general meeting yesterday of a "cover-up" over the sacking of chief executive Peter Robinson.

Around 1,000 members, nearly three times the usual number, attended the meeting at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, Westminster, to hear chairman Sir Brian Jenkins refuse to reveal details about the affair because it was under investigation.

Mr Robinson left the society two weeks ago after auditors claimed he had misled its facilities — for example, by using Woolwich gardeners at his home. He was also accused of using society funds to buy a Range Rover for private use.

Sir Brian said the matter was being "very carefully" investigated by the society's external lawyers and auditors. He said: "The board decided that at the root of the issue was the loss of confidence and trust on the part of the board."

grieved when Sir Brian refused to publish automatically the findings of the investigation, and when he confirmed that some of the alleged irregularities might have occurred during the period covered by last year's report and accounts.

This led one member to call for the meeting to reject the auditors' report because members could have no confidence in its accuracy following the Robinson affair. Another derided the auditors

while a third chanted "cover-up".

One member, Michael Ellis, said: "What everyone here is wondering is how did this happen to an organisation as big as the Woolwich and to someone who has risen so high? Why was he appointed and then sacked after three months?"

Two members questioned whether the society should be converting to a bank. But most were more concerned with whether they would receive a full payout from the flotation.

remained silent throughout the meeting was the Cheltenham & Gloucester chief executive, Andrew Longhurst, a former sparring partner of Mr Robinson.

He said that he had come to watch the events as an ordinary member.

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## Co-op jibs at PIA's plan

DAN ATKINSON looks at plans to issue individual contracts binding 100,000 investment salesmen to act with probity

**P**LANS announced yesterday to give more than 100,000 investment salesmen individual contracts binding them to obey City rules were attacked as unnecessary and bureaucratic by one of Britain's biggest insurance companies.

The contracts will give supervisors powers to pursue and punish individuals who defraud the public, mis-sell financial products or otherwise put their own interests before those of their clients.

At present, most other investment, assurance and pension companies are directly regulated by FIA and are, in turn, responsible for regulating their own salesmen.

Under the new system, principals and managers will be vetted by the PIA and will, in turn, have to certify that they have vetted their staffs.

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The PIA said that set-up costs for the system, which would begin operating next year, would be £200,000, with a further £700,000 for arranging the contracts. These sums will come from fee income.

## National Power chairman acts to repel Southern bid

Simon Beevis  
Industrial Editor

**N**ATIONAL Power yesterday took steps to repel a potential bid from the Southern Company of Atlanta by demanding that the US utility spell out how much it would pay for National Power and how it would finance the electricity sector's biggest ever takeover.

With National Power facing the prospect of a bid estimated to be worth more than £2.5 billion, the generator's chairman, John Baker, wrote to Southern to turn down a request for further meetings.

Although some City observers believed Mr Baker had kept the door open to talks, most read the letter to Thomas Boren, chief executive of Southern Electric International, as an invitation to "put up or shut up".

Mr Baker questioned the US firm's ability to fund a deal. Drawing attention to Southern's heavy indebtedness — estimated at £5.5 billion — Mr Baker said National Power questioned "your ability to structure an acquisition which offers our shareholders fair value for their company".

Southern's plans for an audacious bid for National Power were flushed out late on Monday after attempts to line up £10 billion to finance a deal leaked to the market. It said it wanted a combination of the two businesses if the British Government cleared separate attempts by National Power and its smaller rival, PowerGen, to take over two

## Fizzy drink consumption spills over after hard sell

Roger Cowe

**F**IZZY drinks downed in Britain last year reached record heights after the long hot summer and a marketing blitz. According to Britvic's annual market report, 9.6 billion litres of soft drinks, worth £6.4 billion, were swallowed.

The growth in marketing expenditure has seen soft drinks replace lager as the most heavily-advertised grocery category.

that Pepsi has led the way even before this year's marketing extravaganza and this month's colour change to blue.

The analysis dismisses so-called sport and energy drinks, saying they have failed to differentiate themselves.

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Australia 1.9650	France 7.40	Italy 2.386	Singapore 2.08
Austria 15.37	Germany 2.2000	Japan 163.20	South Africa 1.29
Belgium 45.16	Denmark 137.00	Netherlands 2.4650	Spain 163.75
Canada 2.0025	Hong Kong 11.50	New Zealand 2.15	Sweden 10.04
Cyprus 0.7002	India 51.55	Norway 9.50	Switzerland 1.7200
Denmark 8.54	Ireland 0.7800	Portugal 227.00	Turkey 106.0700
Finland 7.08	Israel 4.78	Saudi Arabia 5.64	USA 1.4750

Supplied by NatWest Bank (excluding Indian rupee and Israeli shekel)

# IMF is accused of sabotaging plan to help poor nations

SARAH RYLE in Washington reports on aid charities' outrage at last-minute conditions for supporting rescue package

**A**GROUND-BREAKING attempt to reduce the debt burdens of the world's poorest countries has sparked an extraordinary internal row at the International Monetary Fund.

The IMF has backed a joint initiative with the World Bank to bail out eight to 20 highly indebted poor countries — due to be debated by finance ministers in Washington next week.

But the fund now stands accused of throwing a spanner in the works by adding on last-minute conditions for its support.

Although the IMF and the World Bank have presented an officially united front on the project, there is anger that the IMF managing director, Michel Camdessus, has given private briefings which are felt to have undermined the scheme before it has reached the public arena.

Selective elements of the proposal have been flagged up in articles attributed to a senior official at the IMF — believed to be Mr Camdessus.

That brought the wrath of the IMF's executive directors — the equivalent of board members — who represent governments. They are understood to have admonished Mr Camdessus.

The controversial elements of the IMF/World Bank plan, which could cost as much as \$8 billion (\$5.3 billion), include how much governments

would have to spend on reducing bilateral debt before the new facility came into play, and whether the IMF's established soft loan operation would be replenished.

Mr Camdessus last night reignited the row by insisting that creditor governments reduce bilateral debt by as much as 90 per cent under the proposal and refinance Esaf, the IMF's soft loan operation, before the fund will agree to the plan.

A senior official source confirmed that aid charities were right to be concerned about the IMF's role in the debate. "You could imagine that this is a Machiavellian scheme to plant a bombshell under the debate by presenting a proposal that no one agrees with."

The plan would augment relief from the Paris Club of creditors and would involve countries meeting tough eligibility criteria before they could embark on the six-year scheme. It is being broadly supported by the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke.

Some Group of Seven industrialised countries have already expressed concern that the Paris Club would have to shoulder most of the burden, leaving just a tiny residue for the multilateral institutions, primarily the IMF and the World Bank, to deal with.

Aid charities like Oxfam and Christian Aid want the IMF to sell gold in order to fund multilateral debt reduction directly. Christian Aid today called for the fund to sell 12 per cent of its reserves (\$4.82 billion) in order to write off debt owed by the 80 most heavily indebted poor countries, mainly in Africa.



Camdessus... accused

"It is the IMF's bid to earn some time. It has placed new conditions having already signed up to the proposal. "If it were left to the IMF it would say the problem these countries have is with their economies, not with debt."

The fund has already made it clear that it wants money for Esaf and is only prepared to sell some of its gold reserves if governments match the money raised.

The IMF claimed that it was dangerous to reduce gold stocks (estimated at about \$40 billion) which might be needed to fight international emergencies, such as the Mexican crisis, and because selling gold to write off debt could damage the organisation's credibility.

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## Boardroom pay-offs row fuelled as Norwegians take over ailing group



Uncharted waters... Cunard flagship QE2 yesterday passed to Kvaerner with the formal acquisition of Trafalgar House

## Trafalgar trio make a £1m soft landing

Lisa Buckingham and Sarah Whitcomb

**A**TRIO of Trafalgar House directors lined up to share a £1 million-plus pay-off after Kvaerner, the Norwegian shipbuilding and engineering combine, yesterday took formal control of the stricken conglomerate.

Added to news that four senior directors at Reckitt & Colman are landing golden handshakes totalling £1.5 million, the details are certain to fuel the row over pay-offs.

Two-thirds of the shipping to construction group's board quit yesterday, marking the end of an era for the Sixties' glamour stock for which Kvaerner bid £904 million.

Amid denials that Kvaerner was wielding the axe all along with group chief executive Nigel Rich, finance director David Gwiler and legal director James Watkins.

According to Trafalgar

House, although the executives will benefit from the terms of their 18-month service contracts, the six non-executives — including chairman Simon Keawick and former Thatcher adviser Sir Charles Powell — are to get nothing.

Based on their remuneration last year, Mr Rich — who only joined the board in August 1994 — looks set to receive some \$420,000. Mr Gwiler, who has served nearly three years, is in line

for about £390,000. Mr Watkins, who joined the firm in October 1994, is heading for £303,000 in compensation.

Trafalgar House's three other executive directors — John Fletcher, Peter Ward and Alan Winter — survived yesterday's clearout as Erik Tonseth of Kvaerner became chairman and chief executive of Trafalgar House.

Meanwhile, Reckitt & Colman's former head of European operations, Colin Brown, who left after a shake-

up last March, received \$447,000 compensation, taking his remuneration for three months with the group to £516,000.

A Reckitt & Colman spokesman said the company had now reduced compensation payments from two years' salary to 18 months' pay.

Mr Brown, whose salary in his last full year with the company totalled £238,000, was later appointed chief executive of the Scholl footwear group.

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## Laura Ashley turnaround puts spring into shares

Tony May

**S**HARES in Laura Ashley hit a nine-year high of 177p yesterday after Ann Iverson, the new chief executive, reported that cost savings had boosted profits to their highest level since 1986.

The women's clothing and home furnishings chain turned a loss of £31 million into a profit of £10.3 million over the year to January 27 — the top end of analysts' forecasts — on turnover up 4 per cent to £336.6 million.

A dividend of 0.5p was announced. The company has paid only nominal dividends since 1989 as it has struggled to cope with financial problems, including under-investment and over-optimistic expansion.

Ms Iverson said she was comfortable with the re-

sults and believed the furnishings company was on track for a turnaround in its fortunes.

She and James Walsh, the finance director, intend to cut the number of lines the chain carries, expand store sizes and add more US stores. They have also pledged a review of the supply chain and distribution costs.

After seven months with the group, Ms Iverson said her priorities were to get Laura Ashley's products right and to achieve double-digit operating margins within three to four years.

Ms Iverson, who earned a reputation for turning around retail shops during her time as chief executive of the Mothercare chain, said some new ranges would be seen in the autumn with the rest in shops next spring.

But she denied that the

product modernisation would see the end of the quintessentially English line of floral print dresses and fabrics that turned it from a tiny home-run firm in 1983 to today's 540-store international chain.

She said efforts would be made to maximise the brand through wholesaling, franchising and licensing while the mail order business would be revamped and positioned for growth.

The US is to be a key area for restructuring but growth was also possible in the UK.

The shop expansion programme will require an outlay of £9.2 million in 1996/97. The group has obtained a £80 million line of unsecured borrowing to meet both capital expenditure and working capital needs.

## News in brief Adtranz axes 224 as train orders dry up

**T**HE lack of orders for trains took a further toll yesterday when Adtranz announced 224 redundancies among its British workforce. The heaviest losses are at its Derby factory where just over a third of the 340 jobs are to go with component manufacturing and source parts being switched to outside suppliers.

A total of 104 jobs will go at the repair and maintenance plants at Crewe and Chart Leacon. Adtranz, owned by ABB and Daimler-Benz, said there had been no orders for trains for nearly three years. Last year the firm closed its York works with the loss of 750 jobs. — Chris Barrie

## £142m business best-seller

**H**IGH street newsagent and bookseller WH Smith has collected £142 million from the sale of its business supplies division to the French group Guilbert. The deal is reported to be the largest strategic review of its businesses. Full results of the new management's assessment of the group's operations are expected next month.

WH Smith has issued two profits warnings in just over 12 months and the new management is aware of the scrutiny of fund managers and city investors, who have said that they would be prepared to see boardroom changes if the business was not turned round. The deal makes Guilbert, which already owns Oxfam in the UK, the leading British office supplies group. The combined group will have a workforce of about 2,000 people.

## C&W absorbs £120m charge

**C**ABLE & Wireless, the telecommunications group that is in talks on a possible £26 billion merger with British Telecom, has had to take an exceptional charge of £120 million because of problems with its businesses in central and Eastern Europe. C&W said the charge would include £76 million of goodwill and would not have any impact on its cash position.

The company said the move was not connected with the exploratory talks with BT. "Expectations have not been realised and we have written down the book value of these businesses to reflect the realities of the market place," said C&W executive director Stephen Pettit. — Reuter

## Sales boost for SKB and Ciba

**D**RUG and chemical companies SmithKline Beecham and Ciba reported a strong first quarter yesterday. Swiss group Ciba said sales were 2 per cent ahead of last year at SF5.351 (\$2.9 billion), which was held back by reductions in industrial product areas such as textile dyes, additives and pigments.

SmithKline Beecham, which will today launch Nicorette smoking withdrawal patches in the US, reported a 10 per cent rise in sales to £1.9 billion, with pre-tax profit 7 per cent ahead after excluding last year's exceptional gains on the sale of businesses. Prescription drugs sales reached £1.2 billion, 6 per cent up on last year, with profits ahead by 8 per cent at £241 million. Sales of Tagamet, once the company's biggest-selling product, were down by a third to just 553 million. — Roger Coote

## RMC issues profits warning

**R**MC warned yesterday that "the most extreme and prolonged winter weather conditions for many years" would push profits for the first half appreciably below those for 1995. Reporting a rise in profit of 16.2 per cent to £228.5 million for 1995, RMC said it was unsure whether market conditions would improve sufficiently for profits to end the year level with those for 1995. — Tony May

## RAC and GRE move closer

**T**HE RAC has confirmed that it is close to agreeing the sale of its general insurance arm to Guardian Royal Exchange. The merger would make Guardian Direct the fourth largest direct insurer in the country with around five million motor and household policies. The deal will also give GRE access to the RAC's database of six million members.

A spokesman for RAC Insurance Services, which has 400 employees mostly based at its Hitchin telephone-broking office, said redundancies could not be ruled out. The sale could trigger further consolidation in the general insurance market where motor and home premiums have been falling — Ian Wylie

## 65 Tories back debt motion

**S**IXTY-five Conservative MPs are among 240 to have signed a motion supporting Labour's policy to introduce a statutory right for creditors to charge interest on overdue commercial debts. The motion, a device used to garner support, will not be debated. But Barbara Roche, Labour's small firms minister, said: "It is simply not right that large firms and government departments use small business as a source of free credit by paying bills late, putting small firms out of business and preventing others from growing." — Celia Weston

## Endless sales stopped to lose taint of failure

Outlook

Tony May

**B**RIAN McGowan is ready to quit as chairman of House of Fraser if John Colman, his new chief executive officer, fails to turn round the ailing department store.

Many City observers wanted Mr McGowan to go last month alongside Andrew Jennings, the previous CEO, who Mr McGowan says had lost the confidence of investors and non-executive directors.

Mr McGowan stayed on because he cannot stand on failure, not because he needed the money. A multi-millionaire, he had retired from corporate life but was lured back by the House of Fraser's former owners, the Al Tayebis, to float the group's 86 stores on the Stock Exchange two years ago.

He made his money at Williams Holdings by buying up industrial companies and returning them to profit, and is the first to admit that he is no retail guru.

The 100,000 small investors who bought shares at the 1990 flotation price have seen them dip to 147p. Although the shares have rallied, they are still 173p yesterday. Over the same period, shareholders have seen profits fall from £34.5 million in 1994 to £28 million last year and again yesterday to £18.5 million.

Mr McGowan has been running the store personally for the past five weeks and is keen to hand over to Mr Colman on Monday week. But he has spent time talking to key managers in small groups.

He concluded that the store's seemingly endless sales promotions were counter-productive and should be restricted to two annual events which should be phased out.

He already knew about the poor stock control and merchandising which had lumbered the group with £21 million of old-fashioned stock from 1994-5. He worked out that it was preventing the group from selling an estimated £11 million of better-priced stock.

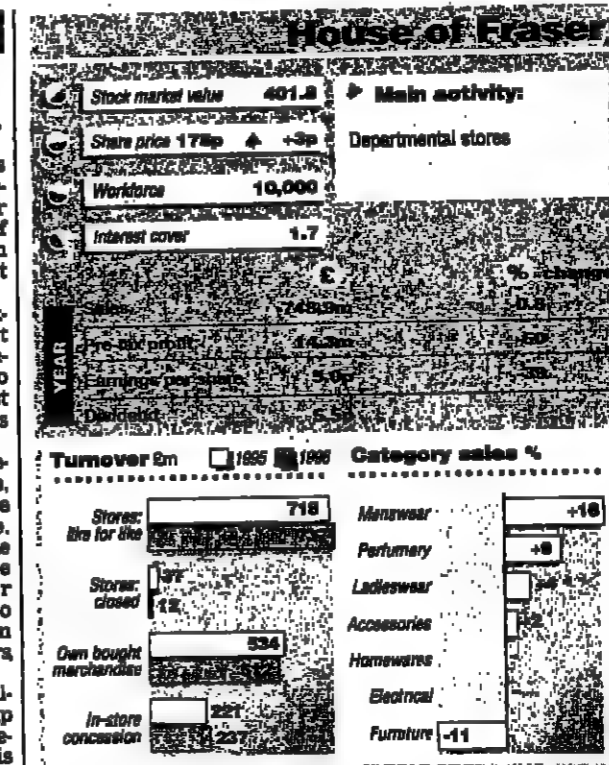
He noted that sales per square foot were poor. In the year to January, they rose 6 per cent to £173 million but were still "lamentable". He said yesterday: "When you see that more than half of our stores average over £200 per sq ft that begins to tell you what the bottom ones must be doing and that's where I have got to address it."

The company aims to refocus towards own-brand products and to recover the 1.6 per cent decline in margins suffered in the past year.

Consumers remain cautious and selective in their purchasing, but Mr McGowan said sales had got off to a good start this year.

He would not say how many of the current 61 stores would be sold or closed this year but promised that the new store opening programme would continue.

New stores have been announced for Swindon, Nottingham, Reading, and the Bluewater Centre in Kent. Yesterday Mr McGowan said the company had been selected to provide the anchor site in the Touchwood Court development to open in central Solihull in spring 1999.



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Alhaari has to go to the K

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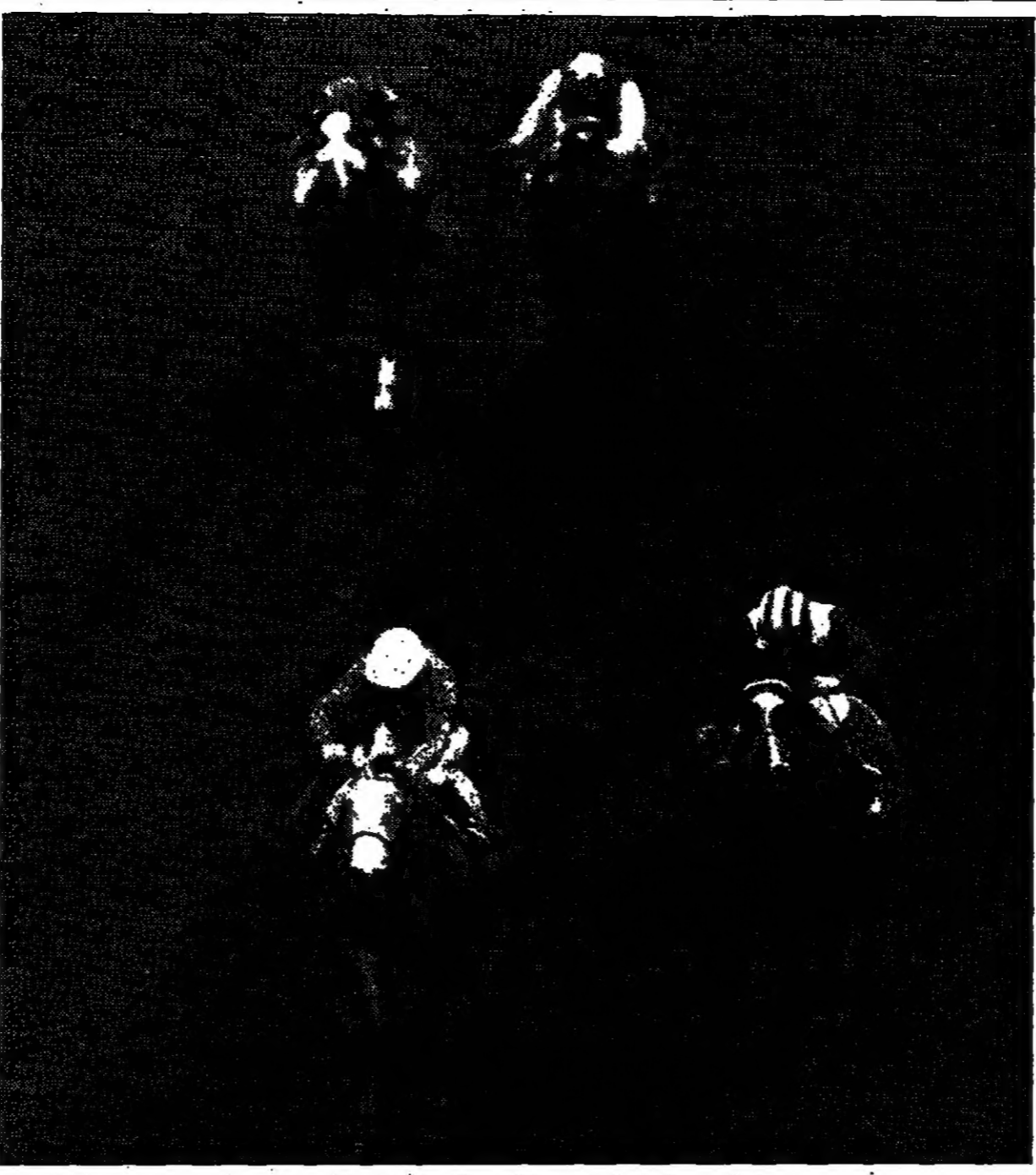
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Racing

Alhaarth has to bow to the King

Chris Hawkins on a major setback for Guineas favourite

Alhaarth was very fit and the race took nothing out of him or, in racing parlance, he didn't do a tap. Could he have become just some idle...



Bean dazzer... the grey Beauchamp King topples Alhaarth in yesterday's Craven Stakes

Bean dazzer... the grey Beauchamp King topped Alhaarth in yesterday's Craven Stakes. The Henry Cecil-trained Storm Trooper, beaten just over a length by Beauchamp King at Ascot in October...

not good. To get a mile and a half he must relax more, while physically he simply does not look like a middle-distance colt, being compact and muscular.

The Henry Cecil-trained Storm Trooper, beaten just over a length by Beauchamp King at Ascot in October, entered Guineas calculations after striding home four lengths clear of St Mawes...

er's owner, Prince Fahd Salman, last night. "Storm Trooper is laid back and is just beginning to do physically," said Cecil after the colt's decisive win.

Bosra Sham to show the way in Newbury treble for Cecil

BOSRA SHAM should be the star turn at Newbury this afternoon when the 1,000 Guineas favourite makes her reappearance in the Daily Frye Free Fred Darling Stakes, writes Chris Hawkins.

ple-Blyam stable but it is hard to look beyond Bosra Sham (3.10). Chapple-Blyam sent out a very easy two-year-old winner at Newmarket on Wednesday and Daylight in Dubai (2.10) is expected to be better.

Thirk runners and riders

Table listing race details for Thirk, including race numbers, names, and riders.

3.50 HAMILTON UNITED STAKES

Table listing race details for Hamilton United Stakes, including race numbers, names, and riders.

Newbury with form guide

Form guide for Newbury, listing various races and their participants.

Ayr National Hunt card

Hunt card for Ayr, listing race numbers, names, and riders.

Blindered first time today: Ayr 436 Moysha House

Hunt card for Ayr, listing race numbers, names, and riders.

Sport in brief

Hamed warning for unbeaten Alica

NASEEM HAMED has been frustrated in his efforts to add a second title to his World Boxing Organisation featherweight championship this summer. The promoter Frank Warren cast around after Hamed's destruction of Said Laouadi in Glasgow last month and the rival world champions Tom Johnson, Marco Antonio Barrera, Arturo Gatti and Wayne McCullough were all tempted without taking the bait.

Redgrave is pre-selected

STEVE REDGRAVE, who will compete in Atlanta for a record fourth successive Olympic gold medal, was pre-selected with his partner Matthew Pinsent yesterday by the Amateur Rowing Association together with the coxswain of Greg and Johnny Searle, Rupert Obholzer and Tom Foster, writes Christopher Dodd.

IAAF agrees new TV deal

THE International Amateur Athletic Federation yesterday announced an agreement with the European Broadcasting Union to end an impasse which had threatened television coverage of major events, writes Stephen Bracey. The IAAF said the deal, worth 200 million Swiss francs (nearly £110 million) from 1996 to 2001 inclusive, would cover outdoor and indoor finals in 1997, 1999 and 2001, the 1998 World Cup and the annual Grand Prix finale.

Rose blooms as Britain draw

INSPIRED goalkeeping by Hillary Rose gave Great Britain a 1-1 draw against United States, hockey's World Cup bronze medalists, in the first of seven matches in 12 days -- to replicate the Olympic programme -- at Clark University, writes Pat Rowley in Atlanta. Scotland's Sue MacDonald put Britain ahead in the first minute after a right-wing break by Tammy Alder, and Rose made a string of saves to deny the US an equaliser until she was beaten in the 60th minute by a Barbara Marois shot after a corner.

Rusedski falls to Enqvist

BRITAIN'S tennis No. 1 Greg Rusedski was knocked out of the Japan Open in Tokyo yesterday, losing in the third round to the third seed Thomas Enqvist. The Swede, winner of last week's Indian Open, reached the quarter-finals with a 7-6, 6-1 victory over the 13th seed, who served 11 aces.

Monarchs freeze out 'Fridge'

BOBBY HAMMOND, head coach of the London Monarchs, yesterday defended the decision to leave their big-name American Football signing William "The Refrigerator" Perry out of tomorrow's World League game in Germany against Frankfurt Galaxy. The 25-stone Perry is replaced by Lewis Capes, son of the former shot-put champion Geoff, and Hammond pointed out that the American had not reached full fitness after his move to England.

aning group... anding... stopped failure... House of Fran

Results section containing various race outcomes and statistics.

RACELINE advertisement for Newbury Ayr, featuring race numbers and contact information.



LONDON MARATHON

Atlanta gold is losing value

Stephen Bierley

THE recent decision by the International Amateur Athletic Federation to pay prize-money at its outdoor and indoor world championships (and the biennial World Cup team event) will inevitably cause certain athletes, notably distance runners, to ponder whether running in the Olympic Games is really worthwhile.

One of the favourites for Sunday's London race, Belgium's Vincent Rousseau — the only man in marathon history to get under 2hr 30min twice — has ruled out Atlanta primarily because of the intense heat and humidity.

It is not so much that Rousseau knows his medal hopes would be cooked; rather, he recognises that burning himself out would inevitably lessen his chances of continuing to make a lucrative living on the roads of more temperate cities.

Sunday's winner will earn a basic £36,000 with a sliding scale of bonuses for fast times and courses or world records. Who needs the Olympic?

Paul Evans, one of Britain's main hopes in London, has also indicated he does not want to run the marathon in Atlanta and will try for a 10,000 metres berth instead. Consequently he intends to give it his all on Sunday, protesting that the Olympic marathon is too much of a lottery — by which he means the weather, not the money.

As usual there is much pre-race talk of a particularly swift men's race, with one of the strongest elite fields for many years. Portugal's Domingos Castro, the winner of the Paris marathon last year, summed up the possible nature of the race perfectly: "It's fast — me together — no problem." Well, almost perfectly.

The men they will all be watching closely is Mexico's Dionicio Cervera, the winner in London for the past two years. At his side, possibly literally, will be his compatriot German Silva, who has won the last two New York marathons. It is the first time they have run against each other over this distance since the 1984 London event when Silva finished third.

Silva hails from Teacomita, which has a population of 500. After his first New York win he managed to get his village put on mains electricity, his aim now is to get Teacomita on the map. It is not only in the pipeline but eventually provide one or two as well.



You take the right side... Gerry Jones, now averaging 50 miles a week, puts in some yards with a partner on a Cornwall beach. TOM BALEY/TODAY'S PIONEER

Adaptability of a long distance runner

Jill Turner on Gerry Jones, a blind man who will be chasing a sub-three-hour time

GERRY JONES has a nasty graze across his temple and over his cheekbones. The other day he walked into a carwash. "It's per for the course, really. Sheer stupidity. I was going too fast as usual," he shrugs. Going too fast is not a usual complaint from an athlete in training for the London Marathon, but Jones is an athlete who has to watch his step very carefully. He is blind.

No sympathy required: He does not need it. This Sunday he runs his 11th marathon and has a chance to push his time under three hours, his previous personal best being 3hr 1min 50sec. "The first time I tried running alone I ran straight up the nearby harbour." Jones is one of an estimated 50 blind or visually impaired athletes competing. It was the London Marathon's unique spirit which first attracted him as he listened to the radio back in 1981. Entering about it to a friend at home in Cornwall they decided to give it a go together.

The blind do not get preferential treatment in the marathon, so at the start Jones tries to bluff his way to the front. "The start is a nightmare because you are stuck in a huge pack. People can be very cruel and will throw things down on the ground — bin-liners, full bags, empty cartons — without thinking,

and I can slip up or trip over anything. "My guide can't point out anything; I have injured my ankle many a time by stepping on a bottle or slipped over a discarded bin-bag. Water stations are a nightmare. I have to slow right down and walk, sliding my feet in front of me to make sure I don't tread on anything. When you're trying to race you can do without that. "People will slow or stop in front of you without warning. Or if they don't stop dead in front of you, so you crash into the back of them, they'll cut you up to waist plus, which is just as annoying. Despite having 'blind runner' and 'guide' on our vests, people have tried to run between us. The language can be pretty colourful at times." Jones always runs on the right, nearer the traffic but further away from deadly man-hole covers and drains. When tired he tends to lean to the right, too, so Douglas has to watch their course and steer him away from collisions.

"Of course you bump into people at times and they can get pretty irate. But by the 20-mile mark things get a bit cooler because we are all stumbling around pathetically and the early aggression has gone." After 10 years in the event and with £20,000 raised for the RNIB, for which he now works, Jones identifies the course by time and distance and can even pick out regulars in the crowds. "My favourite is a chap down by the Tower 20-mile mark who always shouts encouragement. It's just what you want at a time when you really need it." Running, according to Jones, pulled him from the dregs of depression characterised by heavy drinking and caused by suddenly losing his sight after an accident at the age of 28. "It makes me feel happier," he says. "I'm a great believer in keeping a healthy body and mind, and that helps you to cope with the crap of work and all the bloody problems we all have. It doesn't solve them but it clears your brain so you can see a way through." "Also," he adds, "I like my beer and my cigars. I don't like to be unhealthy so if I keep running I can still keep having them, can't I?"

Golf

Faldo comes down to earth

David Henderson at Hilton Head

NICK FALDO reached for the sky and almost fell on his face when he returned to action in the MCI Classic here in South Carolina yesterday. A huge gallery greeted him at the 1st but he failed to strike the opening drive expected of a Masters winner; he asked his tee-shot and the ball finished only 200 yards down the fairway. "My divot went further than the ball," chuckled Faldo, who birdied the next three holes on his way to a one-under-par 70 which left him four shots behind an American trio comprising Ken Green, Guy Boros and Jim Furyk. It was always going to be a difficult day for the 36-year-old Englishman, after his epic victory over Greg Norman, who yesterday went out at the tail of the field in this \$1.4-million (£550,000) tournament played over the demanding Harbour

Down course, Faldo said: "I'm a little tired but I really played okay. Thankfully I had six birdies, because I also made a lot of mistakes. "It was a weird feeling going out there after all the excitement of last week; I guess you can say it's back to the real world." The normal world of Faldo is one of birdies and few errors — as seen at Augusta on Sunday, when he dropped only one shot — but yesterday it was a combination of brilliance and blunder, with his birdies being accompanied by three bogeys and a double-bogey six at the 12th where his second shot hit a tree and he three-putted. "That was a real bad break," he said. "I caught the tiniest of twigs, the ball came straight down and I made a complete mess of the hole. My battle plan now is to keep getting the birdies and eliminate the errors." Faldo, the favourite, is keen to do himself justice. "I really do crash down on my adren-

lin. I want to carry on [winning]," he said. "There's probably a bit more rough this year," he added, after officials admitted that it was four inches high. "And more rough makes the greens seem smaller." Sandy Lyle, the 1988 Masters winner, also hit the highs and lows, with four birdies in his 71, while Norman was relaxing on his yacht, the Aussie Rules, berthed in the nearby harbour. The Australian reflected on the events at Augusta, where he lost a six-stroke lead in the final round. "What happened Sunday is over and done with. What happened was good and bad. It was bad I didn't win although I had a very good chance, and it was good because it changed my life for a lot of good reasons. "It's wonderful when something like that happens to you, it can change your life and make you feel a better person because of the emotion and support from people on a global basis."

Walton's 65 helps ease the pain as Roca equals course record

Michael Britton at Mougins

ATTACKS of gout are usually the preserve of senior citizens who imbibe a surfeit of port. But the record-equalling Philp Walton believes he may be a victim, after he limped to a first-round 65 in the Air France Caunes Open. The Irishman shared second place, one behind the record-equalling Spanish Fernando Roca, when he was forced to strap a bag of crushed ice to the big toe of his right foot and take pain-killing tablets before tackling the Royal Mougins course. The 34-year-old Walton is mystified by the condition, which arose on arrival on the Riviera on Tuesday. "I have started a fitness campaign and have not had any alcohol for three weeks," he said. "I have lost half a stone, but now I have got this sharp pain across the

top of my right big toe. The Tour physiotherapists don't know what is wrong but it feels like gout to me." This week 12 months ago Walton won the Catalan Open in Fontvieille, his surge to a Ryder Cup debut and ultimate glory at Oak Hill as the man who sank the putt that secured Europe's victory. Seven birdies here in a flawless exhibition showed that there was little wrong with his course craft or shot-making after a month's rest. His fellow Irishman Paul McGinley and Kent's Peter Mitchell were also in top form with their putters to join Walton at six under par after Roca, from Barcelona, had exposed the numerous birdie possibilities by going out in 28. He went on to match the course record by claiming an eagle and seven birdies. Costantino Rocca, with a 70, was the best of the Augusta contenders.

Equestrianism

Skelton back in business

Judith Draper in Geneva

THE defending champion Nick Skelton has made an immediate impact in this year's Volvo Showjumping World Cup final. After giving his 1995 winner Dollar Girl a leisurely opening ride in the first warm-up competition, he won the second contest on the German-bred Catbess, a 10-year-old Holstein mare, once the mount of the American Meredith Michaels. First to go in the jump-off for the Prix du Rhone, Catbess produced a second faultless performance which drew Skelton's six rivals into making mistakes as they tried to improve on the mare's fast time. John Whitaker, Britain's only other contender here, had a less than happy time in yesterday's Power and Speed competition. Riding Visa Amadeus, he was eliminated for three refusals at the fourth fence.

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Rugby League

Robinson falls out with Wigan

Jason Robinson, the Great Britain winger, is to put in a written request for a transfer this weekend after Wigan refused to meet his pay demands. The 21-year-old would be valued at around £350,000 but any potential purchasers would need to clarify his contractual position. His contract with Wigan runs to June next year and he then due to take up a four-year deal with the Australian Rugby League, reputedly worth £1.25 million and signed at the height of the

battle between the ARL and Rupert Murdoch's now defunct Super League. It would appear, however, that Robinson's desire to play in Australia has cooled. He told Wigan he wanted to stay at Central Park but he wanted them to agree a deal comparable to the ARL's. Wigan, who are trying to reduce their wage bill, were not prepared to meet his demands. "We had a long chat," said Jack Robinson, the chairman, "but were unable to improve his contract to the extent he wanted. We don't want him to leave but we cannot match the ARL offer. It's a tricky situation."

Robinson is reported to have received a substantial loyalty bonus from the ARL, which will not be pleased if he fails to arrive in Australia. "A lot of clubs in Australia are expecting him to come here next year and they will all be vying for his services," John Quayle, the ARL's general manager, said this week. The ARL has released Steve Hampson, the Salford full-back, from his contract because of Robinson's status as a world-class player that would be unlikely to happen in his case, said Quayle. Robinson may miss tonight's Super League game with Bradford Bulls because

McKenzie to switch codes

PHIL MCKENZIE, 32, has become the first rugby league player to move to rugby union as a player-coach. He will take charge at the North Division One side Huddersfield when his contract with Workington Town expires in July, writes Paul Fitzpatrick. Australian-born, McKenzie has also played for Rochdale and Widnes and was once the best hooker in the English game. He was eligible for Great Britain but Malcolm Reilly, then the national coach, never took up the option. "This is an ideal opportunity with a progressive club," said McKenzie.



Extra time Edited by Jeremy Alexander. The red-hot truth of playing in grey

RED shirts expect to win and stand a better chance than blue. Records endorse it. Where are blues to match Arsenal, Liverpool and Manchester United over the years? Grey is non-colour and a non-starter, especially for those accustomed to red and for those, like United, who lost their first game in it. "Sports people are very suspicious," says Rosemary Burr, a colour therapist and consultant to individuals and companies. "If they lose, particularly when they are used to winning, they look for something to blame. Clothes acquire talismanic properties, both good and bad." Colours, she says, affect wearer and watcher. "Red sends out and excites fans. Its associations are with vigour, passion, arousal. It both suits and encourages a team of individuals and attention grabbers whereas blue is passive, the colour of conformity, serenity and those who wish to be one of a crowd. Witness jeans. "The down side of red is anger. You might expect a poor disciplinary record. To take the violent edge off, I would have a gold collar,

for wisdom and abundance." Cantona would like that. "Those used to being energised by pulling on their shirt would feel a sense of druggery and loss of identity in grey." The Lischer colour test, to reveal personality, says the choice of grey expresses "a wish for non-involvement". It has been "proved for young and old, civilised and uncivilised," so United are covered. It does not go into stripes but Sunderland are the last striped champions, 60 years ago. Rosemary Burr says green marks independence and decision making. Emotionally it signifies panoramic awareness". Premiership referees are well dressed. Turquoise, worn last week by Sheffield Wednesday, is recommended for the young. "It is the colour of spontaneity and playfulness." The trouble is they all want to play their heroes. She is the daughter of Reg Burr, recently chairman of Millwall, who play in blue. After they lost to QPR in the Cup last year she threw out a pair of red boots which she wore to matches when they went into the top division. Look where they are now.

Sixth column

WELSH village soccer club hit the headlines on Tuesday by qualifying for next season's European Cup Winners' Cup. At least they would have if they had fitted. Llansantffraid, which is short for the same-ym-Mechain, was not named for being short. It means the church of St Bride of the Prince of Powys. The whereabouts, for the mighty of Europe, are a recreation ground between Oswestry and Welshpool. The population is 943. The team, of course, are the Saints. They might have waited until May 18, when they play Barry Town in the Welsh Cup final at the National Stadium. But Barry qualified for the UEFA Cup by securing the Football League of Wales title. So the Saints, who beat Cardiff in their semi-final, went marching on. Their manager Graham Brees, editor in chief of North Wales Newspapers, says it began six years ago when the FA of Wales was constructing its league pyramid. Llansantffraid, in the genuinely amateur Montgomeryshire Amateur League, applied to the Mid-Wales League. Two promotions later — and one would have come sooner if lack of a stand and floodlights had not prevented it — they were in the FLOW. Now the Saints are semi-professional, drawing on Crewe and Alsager colleges as well as the regulation plumber and steel sector; their stand holds 150 of their average crowd; and they no longer change at the community centre.

grand-daughter Pandora, wife of Kevin Maxwell. In 1982 his company, Compo, became a subsidiary of BCE Holdings. In 1990 it was sold to Salus, a Belgian firm which now dominates the market. Before Compo's Super Crystalate ball was invented — and adopted by the WFBSA in 1972 — its Crystalate ball ruled the prime component besides celluloid was crushed cow's shin-bones, which came from the best clear 20,000 and were punched from them. BSE Holdings would have been nearer. BRIAN ROUSE bowed out of Flat racing at 56 this week with a hand injury sustained last summer. It makes Willie Carson, 53, the senior Flat jockey. Rouse could have chosen worse moments to go. His wife Doreen won almost £100,000 on national bingo last week. LEICESTER'S match against a World XI at Twickenham on Sunday has tested the Middlesex County RFU committee: how to attend its own cup final, kick-off 3pm, and not miss out on pre-match privileges at headquarters before kick-off (3pm). The final is traditionally held on the ground of one of the participants, decided by toss of a coin. Under pretext of making more of it for its 25th anniversary in current form, the committee decided in February on a neutral venue. Conveniently this turned out to be The Stoop, Harlequins' ground across the road from Twickenham. All four semi-finalists objected. Normally gate receipts are shared and the best club clears £2,000 at the bar. Staines and Old Merchant Taylors will get a guaranteed £500. The only yielding in old-time, high-handed self-interest came on the kick-off, put back from the committee's noon to 1pm. FIFA has a three-man working group redrafting soccer's laws for submission to its board in Belfast on March 1. It will dismiss the linesman for the "referee's assistant", as agreed last month in acknowledgment of women's increasing involvement in the game, but "ungentlemanly conduct" will remain. So what are women booked for? Apparently the problem is exclusively English. In other tongues the term is neutral. It did not prevent the German international Fredi Bobic being sent off and given a one-match ban for calling a referee a "blind bratwurst". TONYA HARDING has filed for divorce 3½ months after marrying her second husband. Having sold the wedding story for \$20,000, she wants to concentrate on her skating comeback. Michael Smith, 29 and married four times, has taken it on the knee. He says he feels used. Fortunately a prenuptial agreement was made: Harding keeps her pick-up truck and skating costumes. Smith, on leave from his machinist job, gets his tool chest.

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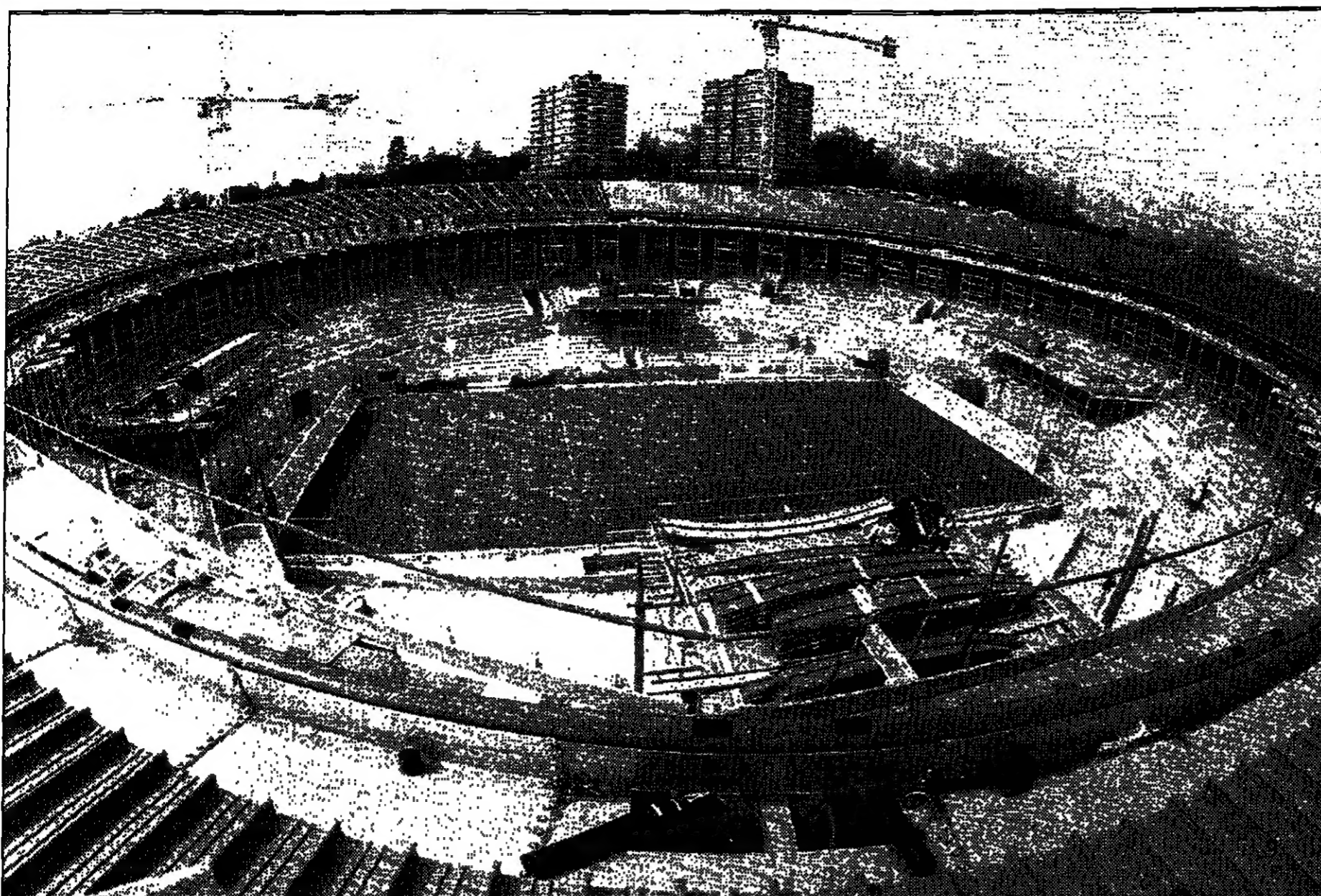
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Craven shock for odds-on favourite, page 13  
Symonds opts for England, page 14

Faldo back in birdie mood, page 15  
The marathon the hardest way, page 15

# Sports Guardian

## WIMBLEDON IS TOPPED OUT AND TOPPED UP



Grass roots... the All England tennis club unveiled its new 11,000-seat No. 1 court yesterday, which is likely to be completed in time for next year's Wimbledon championships. Pete Sampras will earn £392,500 if he retains his singles title this July, a 7.6 per cent increase on last year's £365,000. Steffi Graf will receive £353,000 compared with £328,000. John Curry, chairman of the All England Club, insisted the players were being paid what they were worth. 'It is not excessive for the best in the world,' he said. PHOTOGRAPH: PAUL ARMSTRONG

Mike Selvey on the choice of Graham Gooch and David Graveney to join the England selection panel

## Counties snub Illingworth

RAYMOND Illingworth's already weakened power-base was further undermined yesterday when the counties registered a protest vote denying him the England selectors he wanted.

Illingworth's preferred candidates were John Edrich and Brian Bolus. Instead the counties insisted that he have Graham Gooch and David Graveney — the man who

stood against him for the job of chairman of selectors. The only bright spot for Illingworth was that Ian Botham was left to ruminate on his television soapbox about the iniquity of it all.

Although Illingworth retains a veto in selection matters, as do all Test and County Cricket Board chairmen, it has never been used and the non-selection of his lieutenants, albeit by a small margin, means that to some extent he has had the legs cut from beneath him.

"Things have been done democratically," Illingworth said yesterday. "I expect the selectors to work hard and let's hope we are successful this summer."

There is no denying Gooch's credentials in terms of international experience, with 118 Test matches, 34 of them as captain. Quite how innovative his input is likely to be is another matter. His England sides were generally high on work ethic and short on flair. There was often a feeling among his teams that he had embraced the philosophy of the boot camp rather than the holiday camp long before Ann Widdecombe got on the Colchester bandwagon.

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Yesterday, Gooch said he was "a bit surprised" at the appointment. "But I think that having a current player is a good idea in principle and I'm delighted the counties thought that way. Now we have to sit down and plan how it's going to work. In my view the captain, chairman and coach are the crucial people and the others are there to contribute views."

It will be interesting to see whether the new committee, chaired by an increasingly isolated man, is able to pull not just together but in the same direction at the same time.



Gooch... 'a bit surprised'

The captain Michael Atherton's relationship with Illingworth has never been close and the arrival of David Lloyd, his Lancashire coach and friend, as England coach gives him a valuable ally.

Graveney's relationship with Illingworth has always had a touch of frost about it. He broke the cartel last season when he became a selector, bringing a different perspective to something that was seen by the counties as becoming a dictatorship.

Now that relationship could become arctic. Graveney's challenge for the chairmanship this year was ended only when the Cricketers' Association, the players' union of which he is chief executive,

**Russell longed to take the 'now' out of 'knowledge', because he had an old-fashioned devotion to the idea that only timeless truths are proper truths.**

## Keeping a fiscal eye on the ball



Paul Weaver

IN THE insular world of football there is doubtless some manager who thinks that Dow Jones is a promising left-back some scout told him about, and that the Footsie is a gentle five-a-side.

These days, however, there are managers who can look their directors straight in the fiscal eye. The comments attributed to the Chelsea manager Glenn Hoddle yesterday provided ample evidence of the fact that we now have a few independent, free-thinking, financially secure managers for whom the tyranny of the boardroom bully is a thing of the past.

Hoddle, like Kevin Keegan, Bryan Robson, Ray Wilkins, Gerry Francis and a few others, is as likely to be seen with the Financial Times as with Rottmans Yearbook. They are all wealthy, or at least comfortably off, and able to inform their employers — even those as self-important as

played some wonderful football this season, whatever their positions in the table. This is not to say that a pocketful of lolly will make you a good manager, as Trevor Francis and Graeme Souness would ruefully confirm; but it does allow a measure of freedom and even idealism.

At the other end of the scale we have the endangered species, the old-fashioned, larger-than-life gaffer in the shape of Ron Atkinson, struggling for Premiership survival with Coventry City, who looks as wretched as a lumpy Dumpty with an attack of vertigo coming on.

Death of a Showman? Atkinson is the last in the Shankly-Clough-Docherty-Alison-McIntosh dynasty of colourful as billowing spinners at Cowes Week, who functioned before the directors took over the game.

The Big Ron sobriquet is, perhaps, a little generous. Mr Bolingbroke as he is also known, and who is more of a football man than his usage would suggest, has a poor management record over recent years. If Coventry finally do go down, after three decades and £15 million of recent spending, he should be called Small Ron. Certainly more Ronnie Corbett than Ronnie Barker.

HODDLE, meanwhile, points to the future: a reserved, detached, thoughtful visionary with oodles of lucre in the bank from an outstanding playing career, he is enough to make your average manager spit. If Chelsea had a half-decent forward line their inventive football would surely have got them into Europe.

Hoddle is interesting also because he is one of the few richly gifted footballers of recent years to have made an impact in domestic management. We are still waiting for George Best and Rodney Marsh, who look happier on stage than in the dug-out; and Tony Curtis, Charles George, Stan Bowles, Peter Osgood, Frank Worthington, Alan Hudson and many more never made their management mark.

Bobby Charlton was a better footballer than his brother but it was Big Jack's personality that made the difference which triumphed in management. Keegan and Robson were outstanding players without ever showing much innate natural talent.

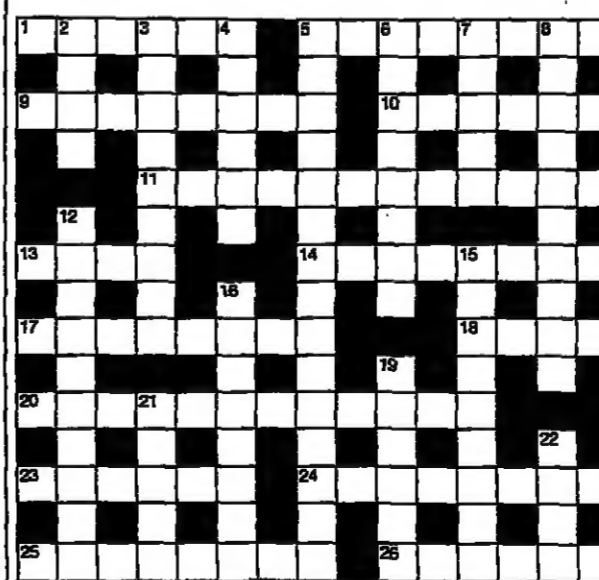
This, though, is good news for English football. If the limited players make the better managers we should soon have the best bosses in the business.

media interests would not sit comfortably with the job of selector and that he would be reluctant to give them up.

Yet Botham has not really lost out. There could be a lot to gain from talking at length to him and finding out exactly how he could contribute constructively; not as some motivational team stuck in the dressing room — that would insult both his ability to impart knowledge and the future machinations of the England set-up, which ought to involve people trained in the psychology of motivation — but as a genuinely active part of a support team. England cannot have too much help at the moment.

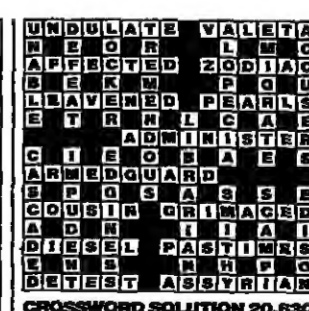
## Guardian Crossword No 20,631

Set by Quantum



- Across**
- 1 He's far off again (6)
  - 5 A student following the reviewer is decisive (8)
  - 9 Acid made from two salts isolated chemically initially (6)
  - 10 Cutback by one Church body to maintain order (6)
  - 11 Old AB left filing disorderly cargo list (4,2,6)
  - 13 Cheers team? It'll give one a lift (4)
  - 14 Causing blockage in the road? (2,3,3)
  - 17 Put out by hard corrosion? Body in water gets it (6)
  - 18 The convention's crowded. It's said (4)
  - 20 Eccentric male goes in to emphasise equipment needed (12)
  - 23 It's delightful for the theological expert (6)

- Down**
- 2 Piece of scenery falling in effect (4)
  - 3 His stable could be set up as a business (9)
  - 4 Old comic contains first of laughs? Only just (6)
  - 5 Unwelcome one making a flying visit? (6,2,3,4)
  - 6 Will a civil servant say it? It's disrespectful (8)
  - 7 I had been in the front but took it easy (5)
  - 8 Having unravelled case, can end in superior position (10)
  - 12 Better cup coming up in company distributing coffee (10)



CROSSWORD SOLUTION 20,630

- 15** Describe in detail one working abroad I took in (9)  
**16** It gives support other than a lock (6)  
**19** In the Solent I'll find a small plant (6)  
**21** Musical not right for the girl? (5)  
**22** One making a sound comeback (4)

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